MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 MAY 1981

Lebanese Situation

Habib Mission--Special U.S. Envoy Philip Habib conducted intensive contacts with Lebanese and Syrian leaders over the weekend. According to Beirut radio, he met with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad on the morning of 8 May. Later in the day, Voice of Lebanon reported, Habib held talks with Phalangist commander Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, his father Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and former President Camille Sham'un. Voice of Lebanon also reported that on 9 May Habib discussed the Zahlah situation with the Cabinet ministers from that city--Joseph Skaf, Ilyas al-Hirawi and Joseph abu-Khatir--and said he met National Movement leader Walid Junblatt.

Later on 9 May Habib went to Damascus, Damascus radio reported, where he held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. According to SANA, on 10 May Habib held discussions with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during which al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's support for Lebanon's independence and unity and for nonintervention in Lebanon's internal affairs. Habib gave Al-Asad a message from President Reagan and briefed Al-Asad on his talks in Beirut, SANA added.

Reaction to Habib Visit--A 9 May Damascus radio commentary said that if the situation in Lebanon is as serious as U.S. officials claim, it is Israel's offensive actions, not Syria's deployment of SAM missiles in self-defense, that are responsible. The radio warned those in Tel Aviv and Washington who think they can frighten Syria into abandoning its cause and principles that they are mistaken, since Syria is unafraid of threats and does not withdraw before them, nor can Syria be softened by enticements. On 10 May the radio reviewed a commentary by the daily TISHRIN stressing that Syria's private diplomatic stand is the same as its publicized position. TISHRIN also said Israel's "belligerent threats" cannot change the situation in Israel's favor but rather might speed up the collapse of what the United States thinks it has achieved over the last decade.

In an 11 May editorial carried by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, the PLO newspaper FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH described any proposals by U.S. Envoy Habib for partitioning Lebanon as ridiculous. Contrasting Habib's reported lack of concern for the Palestinians with the Soviet Union's support for Syria and the Palestinians against Israel, the newspaper said Habib's tour is aimed at reversing the new situation in Lebanon in which the installation of Syrian SAM's has swung the balance of military power against Israel and given the Palestinians a "pan-Arab umbrella" under which they can carry out armed struggle. Warning that Israel's term in Lebanon is coming to an end, it said the red lines that existed before the deployment of SAM's no longer exist. Claiming that Israel will collapse if it loses its military superiority, FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH said an Israeli operation against the Palestinian revolution is therefore inevitable. However, it said, Syria's firm stand and the support of the Soviet Union will make any attempt to wage a limited, separate war against the Palestinians useless.

Voice of Palestine also carried the text of an article by WAFA's political editor that said the United States is responsible for the current crisis in Lebanon through its support for Israel and is therefore not fit to be an arbiter or mediator.

Among other reaction to the U.S. envoy's visit to the region, SPA reported that the Saudi paper AL-YAWM expressed doubts about Habib's impartiality, asserting that instead of forcing Israel to stop its aggression in Lebanon, the U.S. envoy has asked Syria to turn its cheek so that Israel can do as it pleases in Lebanon.

Arab Diplomacy, Comments--Radio reports indicated a flurry of diplomatic activity over the weekend in several Arab capitals. According to Damascus radio, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam flew to Tripoli with a message from President al-Asad for Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. On the same day, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Korniyenko left Damascus for the Soviet Union, the radio reported, and said in a pre-departure statement that his talks with Syrian officials had been successful and useful. According to the radio, Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur briefed foreign diplomats in Damascus on the "explosive situation" in Lebanon, while on 10 May Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm told the Syrian Cabinet, meeting in a special session, that Syria has the power to strike enemy forces in any of the confrontation arenas. Damascus radio also said Libyan Foreign Secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki arrived in Damascus on 10 May. Earlier, At-Turayki had spent 2 days in Aden, where, according to ANA, he met with PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. A PDRY envoy also arrived in Damascus on 10 May with a message for Al-Asad from the PDRY leader, Damascus radio reported.

Following PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's return from a tour of Gulf countries to Beirut on 8 May, the clandestine Voice of Palestine Radio reported that the PLO Executive Committee held an emergency meeting and issued a statement on 9 May, charging Israel with preparing military action against the Palestinian revolution, Syria and the Lebanese people. It said the PLO leadership declares complete support for Syria's right to strengthen its air and ground defenses in Lebanon. According to INA, 'Arafat went to Baghdad on 11 May for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Citing the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM's 9 May edition, KUNA reported that Kuwait will urge Arab countries to hold an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss Lebanon. The Kuwaiti initiative is at the behest of PLO leader 'Arafat, the report said.

Lebanese National Movement Statement--After the return of its delegation from Syria, the Lebanese National Movement issued a statement, broadcast by Voice of Palestine radio on 8 May, that reaffirmed the movement's support for national accord but warned the Lebanese authorities against taking only partial measures to improve security. Unless agreement is reached on basic political issues, the statement warned, it would be futile to expect partial security solutions to succeed. The statement also strongly rejected the deployment of the Lebanese Army to maintain security in any Lebanese area, particularly Zahlah, the Sannin heights, roads and crossing points and the airport. The army has proved to be a protector of the isolationist Christian community and a striking force for the Phalangists, the statement asserted, and therefore the National Movement calls for its withdrawal from all contact lines. The statement said the National Movement will continue to reject the deployment of the army in any security task until it is restructured on a national basis, liberating it from factional domination.

Israeli Comments--Speaking at the Likud unification conference on 10 May, Prime Minister Menahem Begin warned that if the Syrians do not remove their missiles from Lebanon, the Israeli Air Force will be ordered to act, Jerusalem radio reported.

A statement issued by Prime Minister Begin's office, carried by ITIM on 10 May, denied a report by the Israeli newspaper DAVAR that the United States has given a green light for an Israeli attack on the Syrian missiles in Lebanon. The statement stressed that as a sovereign state Israel has not asked and will not ask for a green light for any action. The statement also denied a report by the New York TIMES alleging that in his recent message to President Ronald Reagan, Prime Minister Begin likened the current crisis to the situation on the eve of the 6-day war of 1967.

IDF radio broadcast an excerpt of a 10 May press conference held by opposition Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres in which he stressed that there is no justification for the Syrian deployment of SAM's in Lebanon and said Israel should not accept such a situation. In an excerpt of the press conference broadcast by Jerusalem television, however, Peres also criticized Prime Minister Begin's rhetoric on the subject for arousing hopes among Lebanese Christians that Israel will probably not be able to fulfill.

Military Situation--Reports by Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios indicated that clashes flared up intermittently in Beirut throughout the weekend, with heavy casualties on 9 May. According to Voice of Lebanon, Syrian forces shelled the Christian-held port of Juniyah with surface-to-surface missiles. The radio also said the Syrians have brought in reinforcements in the Al-Biqa' valley and reported that some Syrian units have withdrawn from western Beirut and redeployed along the Ad-Damur ridges and in the Dayr al-Qamar area to the south. An Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) commander, in a statement reported by Beirut Radio, had earlier denied any withdrawal of ADF forces from the capital. Voice of Palestine reports on 9 May denied that Syrian forces have moved south of the Az-Zahrani River and claimed that Israel has amassed large numbers of military vehicles in and around the Christian-held border strip. Damascus television also reported large Israeli concentrations in the Jordan River valley.

Libya

Reacting to the recent U.S. decision to expel all Libyan diplomats from the United States, a 9 May commentary by Tripoli's Voice of Arab Homeland radio said the current U.S. campaign against Libya is designed to besiege the Libyan revolution politically and militarily with the intention of using "Arab reaction" as a tool in a military operation against Libya. The United States also wishes to counter Libya's call for other progressive Arab forces to join the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, the radio said.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Nonaligned Delegation--Tehran radio reported that the select committee of the nonaligned countries, consisting of the Cuban, Indian and Zambian foreign ministers, the chairman of the PLO's Political Department and the Nonaligned Movement's UN representative, arrived in Tehran on 10 May with proposals for ending the Iranian-Iraqi war. The radio said that the delegation met with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and that later the Supreme Defense Council met in extraordinary session to discuss the proposals. It quoted Bani-Sadr as saying that the council would meet again on 11 May and ask Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni for his opinion before making a decision.

Conference Postponement Request--The prime minister's political adviser, Mohammad Hoshemi-Rafsanjani, said in an interview with Tehran radio that Iran has requested the postponement of the 12th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference, scheduled for 31 May in Baghdad, until the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

Military Activity--According to Tehran radio, on 7 May one Iraqi MiG was shot down on the Gilan-e Gharb front, two aircraft were downed in the Abadan and Naftshahr regions and three others were brought down in the western and southern regions. The radio admitted that Iraqi fire had damaged Abadan's residential districts and that the Iraqis, at the behest of the Kurdish Democratic Party, had used MiG's on a 7 May air raid on the northern region of Sar Dasht, killing approximately 25 Iranians. Tehran radio later reported the Iraqi shelling of Ahvaz and Dezful on 10 May and the Iranian bombing of an Iraqi industrial installation in the Kirkuk region. It also said Iranian forces had killed 200 Iraqis in the Marivan region and had pushed back the enemy. Tehran broadcasts on 10 May reported sporadic military activity on some of the Ilam fronts and said that Iraq's Seyyed-Sadeq garrison had been partially destroyed. The radio reported on 11 May that a section of the Al-Faw oil refinery in Iraq had been set ablaze by Iranian shelling and that Abadan had been brought under long-range Iraqi artillery fire the previous day.

Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communiques carried by INA over the weekend reported on the downing of an Iranian fighter plane in the Shush area and on clashes in Dezful and Abadan. A 10 May communique reported the deaths of 16 Iranians in the Dezful area and 35 in the Abadan area.

Iraq

Ramadan Visits PRC--INA reported that Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan returned to Baghdad after an official visit to the PRC during which Iraq and the PRC signed agreements on technical and economic cooperation and trade. Ramadan met with CCP Vice Chairman Deng Xiaoping, INA reported, and also visited Bangladesh before returning to Iraq.

Oil Contract With USSR--According to INA, Iraq and the Soviet Union signed contracts on oil cooperation between the Iraqi National Oil Company and Soviet organizations following talks in Moscow.

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PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUES STATEMENT 9 MAY

JN091825 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1642 GMT 9 May 81

[Statement by the PLO Executive Committee on 9 May 1981--place not given]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held an emergency meeting in view of the Zionist military escalations and threats, which are supported by the United States on all levels, against the Palestinian revolution, fraternal Syria and the heroic Lebanese people. The committee reviewed the political and military situations and their expected possibilities and the meetings Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held with the leaderships of some Arab countries and with the Soviet first deputy foreign minister and the messages the PLO received from various Arab leaders and officials and friends. In light of this the participants in the meeting arrived at the following:

1. The Zionist enemy is paving the way for a wide-scale aggressive military action against the Palestinian revolution, fraternal Syria and the Lebanese people and their patriotic forces. The enemy paved the way for this through a savage military escalation--land, sea and air--against the south and the Palestinian camps. The U.S. envoy's moves come with an extortionist objective aimed at preparing for this aggression and covering it. This envoy is adopting all the Israeli and isolationist conditions against the legitimate Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon, particularly following the military measures adopted by Syria to protect its troops against the Zionist arrogance in Lebanon's skies and against the line of isolationist expansion in several areas.

2. The Palestinian leadership declares its complete support for the right of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, which represent the legitimate forces, to strengthen their air and ground defenses in the wake of the escalating Israeli attacks against them and the isolationist forces' increasing activity, which is coordinated with the Zionist enemy, in implementation of the U.S. plan that is aimed at striking at Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the patriotic forces in Lebanon.

3. The Palestinian leadership declares, in the name of our Palestinian people, the determination to confront any Zionist aggression with all capabilities and depending on the close alliance with the Lebanese people and their patriotic forces, the Arab nation and fraternal Syria, which has stressed that the protection of the Palestinian revolution represents the most gracious aim of Arab struggle against the Camp David plot and the various imperialist, Zionist and agent schemes.

4. The Palestinian leadership considers that support for the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese people and fraternal Syria at this grave stage represents the serious criterion for Arab solidarity to protect the Arab nation's entire destiny against the dangers of the imperialist and Zionist storming of and hegemony over the entire region.

5. The Palestinian leadership considers the present confrontation on the Lebanese arena against the U.S.-Zionist scheme, a scheme talked about by Menahem Begin in his fascist and bloody statements against the Palestinian people's existence, statements in which he was so impudent as to declare that he will destroy the Palestinians; the PLO Executive Committee sees that this matter concerns all world liberation, progressive and peace forces. The U.S. and Zionist attempts to single out the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese and Syrian nationalist forces will founder through cooperation with our Arab nation and the socialist bloc, headed by the Soviet Union, and with the rest of the allied and friendly peoples in the Islamic world, the nonaligned states, the African states and the friendly states in the whole world.

6. The Palestinian leadership stresses that the sons of our valiant people, men and women, will shoulder with honor and honesty their historic responsibilities during these decisive moments in order to protect their existence and their revolution.

The Palestinian leadership greets the valiant fighters along the frontline of confrontation in the south and the general mobilization forces, which are fulfilling the call for performing national and pan-Arab duty in defense of the destiny of the entire Arab nation in this advanced trench against this fascist, terrorist and Zionist enemy, which is using the most sophisticated U.S. arms and which is carrying out aggression with the approval of the United States.

PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION REJECTS BEGIN STATEMENTS

NC091255 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 9 May 81

[9 May statement by a "responsible source" in the Palestinian revolution's command--read by announcer]

[Text] Menahem Begin's statements in which he has promised the Galilee settlers that the Palestinians in Lebanon will be annihilated greatly resemble his statements prior to the 8-day war launched by the regular Zionist army against southern Lebanon in March 1978. Although we understand the dimensions of these fiery electioneering statements by the Zionist prime minister, these statements at the same time are considered one of several signals that the Zionist enemy may embark on a large-scale military adventure against southern Lebanon, more so since these statements have been accompanied by large concentrations of enemy vehicles in the occupied border strip.

If Menahem Begin has adopted a bloody election platform--that the more he sheds Palestinian and Lebanese blood, the more votes he will win in the elections--we say that playing with Palestinian fire will result in all the fingers that are playing with it being burned, that it will cause a flare-up throughout the region and that it will wreck the interests of those who are supporting and protecting Zionist aggression and terrorism.

We ask: What kind of people are those who can cast their votes in favor of a leadership that is proud of declaring a criminal war of annihilation against an entire people?

We remind terrorist Menahem Begin of the series of violent confrontations that have taken place between the joint forces and the Zionist forces, such as the glorious 8-day war, the immortal Ash-Shaqif epic, the battles of Al-Jarmaq, 'Arab Salim and An-Nabi Tahir and the battles of airborne and seaborne landings on these Lebanese coast and territory. The results of these confrontations were a painful blow to the Israeli military machine and to its arrogance and belligerence.

Our forces will firmly repulse any Zionist aggression, no matter its size, and we will convince Begin and other Zionist leaders that Palestinian and Lebanese blood will not be fuel for their election machine. The land of heroic southern Lebanon will not be an arena for their plots, ambitions and deals. It will be a mammoth citadel confronting their army and their U.S. weapons. It will be a victorious arena, God willing.

SYRIAN, LIBYAN FORCES NOT IN SOUTH LEBANON

NC090806 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Arab and foreign correspondents have left for southern Lebanon to see for themselves that there are no Syrian forces south of the Az-Zahrani area or Libyan forces at Ash-Shaqif castle. A responsible source in the joint forces command in the south has stated that there are no Syrian movements in these areas. He said that the statements about the presence of two Syrian brigades are absolutely false. These statements are sheer allegations aimed at justifying an Israeli offensive. The spokesman said that regarding rumors about the entry of Libyan forces into Ash-Shaqif castle, they are also absolutely false.

Among the journalists who visited southern Lebanon yesterday was an AFP correspondent who said that tense calm has prevailed in the An-Nabatiyah area for the past 3 days and that the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces are ready to confront any possible attack. She said that the An-Nabatiyah sector from Yuhmur to Beirut is under the complete control of the joint forces.

HABASH, MUSTAFA ON PFLP STANDS, CONFERENCE

JN091936 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1650 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Here is a recording of the press conference held by PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash at noon today at the end of the meetings of the PFLP's fourth conference:

[Begin recording] Comrades, brothers and perhaps I can also say colleagues, due to my previous work in the underground press: In an atmosphere abounding with confidence and the inevitability of victory and under its slogan The fourth national conference is an important step along the path of completing the process of transformation to build the Marxist-Leninist party and the united national front, escalating armed struggle, protecting the existence of the revolution, consolidating its militant positions, defeating the trend of settlement and capitulation and deepening Arab and nations' ties--the PFLP's fourth national conference held.

Frankly, I wish you were able to attend this conference because the reports issued by this conference do not give a clear picture of the level of progress achieved by the front during the years following our third national conference. We know quite well that clear vision is one of the conditions of victory, and we know that the task of any conference is to clarify the vision of the forthcoming march. At the same time we know that the tool, the humans, the revolutionary individual, the organization to be entrusted with the task of achieving these aims, is the decisive element in deciding the destiny of the revolution and the destiny of our front. Hence, I say that I really wish you were able to attend all the sessions of our third [as heard] national conference because such matters cannot be made clear through reports, but through what you would have (?heard) if you had attended as regards the determination and iron will to achieve the aims and tasks drawn up by our fourth national conference. You would have realized for yourselves that we have not drawn up these tasks for decoration or entertainment. We have drawn them up in the name of an oppressed people who are determined to triumph.

As you know, despite this public section of our activity, we still consider ourselves as passing through the stage of self-work. Eventually the security factor naturally overpowers the information factor, despite our realization of what is represented by honest information, not necessarily revolutionary or national information. It is enough to mention honest information and the large service it performs in acquainting the public with facts.

Comrades and brothers, the convocation of the conference was a response to what is dictated by the current stage of struggle, with all the dangers it bears on the international, Arab or Palestinian levels. I think that you all feel the intensity of tension and the Zionist-imperialist aggressive schemes to liquidate our cause. In this conference we dealt with the escalation of tension on the world level and the imperialist attempts to return the atmosphere of cold war and what this means in regard to activating the policy of hegemony, aggression and [words indistinct] alliances. This is a matter that led to deepening the organic link between Arab reaction, imperialism and Zionism and their schemes, together with what this means in regard to practical translations and, at the same time, [words indistinct] the same policy.

The Zionist enemy has escalated its attempts to liquidate the cause and the Palestinian revolution through all sorts of forms and ways.

Our fourth nationalist conference was held under this international, Arab and Palestinian atmosphere. It is my duty here to say objectively and not for the sake of advertisement that our fourth conference was convened under a great state of democracy in which we held a constructive dialogue of comrades and conducted a responsible critical review that lasted throughout the conference's meetings. The conferees unanimously endorsed the draft resolutions that were made by the base of the party after applying the amendments and recommendations that were made by the base of the party during the various regional conferences.

I honestly wish you had been able to attend that conference so that you would have been able to become acquainted with the value of the resolutions, recommendations and reports that we achieved. You would have also been able to assure the brothers and the friends of the level of maturity, responsibility and sincerity that prevailed during the discussions of our revolution's causes and our people's fate.

It is my duty to say, and I am saying this not for reasons of publicity but for the sake of outlining the truth, that our fourth nationalist conference constituted a big move forward in the history of our front and on all levels.

Comrades, brothers and sisters, I think that copies of the press statement which was issued by our fourth nationalist conference are now in your hands. We completed this press statement quickly due to the circumstances that were prevailing then and in light of the aggressive Israeli threats. I hope that our information organs have given you enough time to read this political statement which, I stress, was short. For example, I remember that in regard to the international level, we outlined our rejectionist stand on the struggle underway between the powers of socialism, liberation, peace and progress on the one hand, and the imperialist and reactionary powers on the other. It is quite natural for prominence to be given to this subject, yet it is actually not the only subject that we discussed on the international level. We considered the imperialist designs on the universal level and the possible impacts of this aggressive course on world peace. We also considered the international communist movement since we aspire to become a group in this movement in the future. We considered the nationalist democratic revolution in the countries of what they call the Third World. We considered all these subjects, if I am not mistaken. Actually, I hope you will be able to get the idea we want you to have about the deliberations of our fourth conferance.

The same thing applies to our discussions on the Arab level. We dealt with the post-Camp David stage. We used the title Camp David as a symbol for the new stage which the nationalist liberation movement has entered. How can we explain this stage? Was it because of As-Sadat's self-produced action, the oil resources, the social and economic developments in some Arab countries? Or was it because of the homogeneity of the interests of the Arab reaction and the interests of imperialism and those of oil as well? We considered all those subjects.

How can we explain the stalemate of the national liberation movement? What are the tactical and strategic missions that are capable of coping with the post-Camp David stage? What are the missions of the democratic nationalist Arab revolution? We discussed these issues too. We, as a group in the Palestinian revolution, consider ourselves as principle contributors, and not observers, to the planning of all the legitimate pan-Arab objectives of this revolution. We also understand that every democratic and nationalist group in every part of the Arab countries should contribute to the planning of the Arab revolution's objectives.

As a matter of course I must especially refer to the Palestinian part. The Palestinian part does not deal only with the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots to strike at the Palestinian revolution. I think that any reading of our central mouthpiece AL-HADAF will fully cover this subject. All of you have read about the plots against the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon on the one hand, and about the attempts to forge the autonomy plot on the other. In AL-HADAF all of you have read about the military and political plots to strike at the Palestinian revolution.

By the political plots I mean that what is threatening us in the Palestinian revolution is not confined to the threat which Begin made, yesterday I think, in Qiryat Shemona. What is threatening us are the Arab and international maneuvers aimed at annihilating our strength. These maneuvers include the Israeli Labor Party project and the project of the united Arab kingdom for which the road is being paved despite King Husayn's attempts to escape from it by his recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. These maneuvers also include the issue of the European initiative, which we consider a political joke with the Palestinian revolution.

This Palestinian part does not merely deal with the current Palestinian situation, but with the important lessons learned from the Palestinian revolution over the past 15 years. Here is the basic point: Our conference was not satisfied with manifesting its concept of the imperialist plots and how to deal with them. The conference dealt with the lesson learned from our 15 years' experience. Do we have to go on leading our daily lives despite the heroism of our fighters in their fight against the Zionist enemy, or is it our duty to address ourselves to the lessons of our Palestinian revolution, to the connection between the Palestinian and Arab actions, to the need of the Palestinian revolution for a firm base and to our right to find this firm base in our struggle side by side with the Arab masses, especially those in the surrounding state? And what about the new circumstances brought about by the Palestinian revolution, such as the issues relating to the understanding of the phases of struggle and the short-term Palestinian motto for the Palestinian struggle? How can we understand this issue? Do we understand it as it was proposed at the 10th PLO Executive Committee conference when we withdrew from this committee, or do we understand it as it was stated in the Tripoli document, or as it appeared in the political program of the 14th national conference? This short-term target was completely connected with detente. It was connected with the continuation of struggle and with considering any part of Palestinian territory which we might liberate as a means to realize the strategic aim of the Palestinian revolution and the Arab nation, an aim which is represented by establishing the popular democratic Palestinian state. [end recording]

Brothers, after summarizing the PFLP's fourth conference statement, George Habash was prepared for the journalists' questions. In reply to a question on the tense situation and the Israeli threats to the Palestinian revolution, Habash said: [Begin recording] Of course, Israel is not in need of apologizing. However, for the benefit of world and progressive public opinion, we are interested in solving the Lebanese problem on the basis of the slogan proposed by the Lebanese National Movement, namely, the preservation of Lebanon's Arabism, its unity and democratic development. [end recording]

In reply to a question on the suggested meeting between him and U.S. Envoy Philip Habib, Comrade Habash said: [Begin recording] I must first clearly say that this is just a hypothetical situation because our relations with the monopolist departments and the imperialist departments, not with the U.S. people of course, are relations of struggle. Every [word indistinct] Palestinian knows that he is being fought by Israel only formally. The bombs, the machines of destruction, all of these come through the aid of the United States. Therefore, if your friend Habib comes, I will explain to him--this is all hypothetical--the facts regarding the Palestinian position beginning with the Balfour Declaration and ending with this moment so that he will emerge with the conclusion that the only solution is to destroy the Zionist entity and Zionism through cooperation among all the progressive Arab, Palestinian and Jewish forces. [end recording]

Replying to a question on the fabricated clamor about the issue of introducing Syrian missiles to protect the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in Lebanon, Comrade Abu 'Ali Mustafa, PFLP deputy secretary general, said:

[Begin recording] This clamor about the presence of missiles in Lebanon under the ADF, which have taken their legitimate quality from an Arab resolution and an implicit international agreement, is a fabrication of a side issue aimed at disregarding the crux of the struggle in Lebanon. This is so particularly since imperialism, under the leadership of the United States, realizes quite well that it cannot peddle the second act of the Camp David accords without using local forces allied to it, including Israel, to break the links of national steadfastness in Lebanon. Imperialism knows that Syria has a national political stand that is contrary to the Camp David accords.

Imperialism, in collaboration with its allies, made this clamor as a means to fake [as heard] the sound stand in relation to the confrontation of the Zionist enemy, who is attacking Lebanon daily. No side possessing a minimum of integrity and human conscience should overlook the scores of crimes committed daily by Israel against the masses of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples using all sorts of weapons. After doing all this, Israel makes up a clamor about the presence of missiles.

We say that it is our right as well as the right of the Lebanese National Movement and Syria to mass all possible material potentials in order to confront aggression, deter it and keep it away from Lebanon, not only by placing missiles in this position or that one but doing so until the missiles reach inside Palestine, and to curb this enemy and its acts. [end recording]

Asked about the European initiatives on the Middle East and the Palestinian cause, Comrade George Habash said: [Begin recording] Do you know or recall if a foreign minister of any European state has clearly rejected Camp David? All of them say that the European initiative will complement Camp David. I have read the statements made by the foreign ministers, even those made by the Luxembourg foreign minister. They all say--to the greater imperialist master, of course--that we are not against Camp David but we are trying to bridge some gaps caused by the Camp David accords.

Another point, for example: Do you know the aim of the minimum level agreed upon by all the resistance organizations? In fact, the European initiative does not touch on this aim. This means that the peak of the European initiative falls very short of this aim. Hence, our analysis--as I mentioned in the opening speech because I believe [words indistinct]--is that we consider the European initiative as a weapon used by the Zionist-imperialist-reactionary enemy to abort the Palestinian revolution. [end recording]

Brothers, our radio correspondent asked the following question: Are we on the threshold of a new stage after the difficult predicaments through which Camp David passed, predicaments which have caused many analysts and journalists in the world to say that Camp David and the stage of unilateral solutions have ended? What, in your opinion, is the Soviet Union's stand in the forthcoming stage, particularly in light of the very tense situation in the region?

[Begin Habash recording] As for the first part of your question, which says that Camp David is facing a deadlock and is about to collapse, it is my duty and desire to show the difference between the Camp David agreements and the range of their success in the Palestinian arena on the one hand, and the range of the Camp David agreements' success in the Egyptian and the Arab reaction arenas on the other. So, in order to answer your question, we must first show the difference between the two aforementioned arenas. Why? Because Camp David is facing a big deadlock in the Palestinian arena thanks to the struggle of our people inside the occupied homeland. Our people there used all possible means of struggle: daggers, strikes, demonstrations and many other means that forced everyone to admit that the Camp David agreements in the Palestinian arena are facing a deadlock. Even some of the imperialist circles admit this fact. I remember that I said at one seminar that the flesh of the legs of Bassam ash-Shak'ah and Karim Khalaf, which scattered in the air, had contributed to the explosion of the Camp David agreements.

What did happen on the southern front? We are prepared to shoulder our strategic objectives for another 20 or 30 years, regardless of all barriers. This, however, does not prevent us from seeing the truth of what happened on the Egyptian front. What happened there was a temporary success for the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary design. Yet we are still proud of the Egyptian arena. We are proudly reading the news of various protests and resistance, which outline the real stand of our bold masses in Egypt. However, we must admit that what happened on the southern front caused the balance of power to tip in favor of the Zionist entity during the current stage of the struggle. This is in answer to the first part of your question.

As for the second part of the question, the first point is that the Soviet Union is a great, principled and strategic friend of ours. We cannot imagine that any simple or tactical difference in opinions may cause us to forget this fact. In addition to this, we say that the Palestinian revolution has its clear short-term objectives as well as its clear strategic objectives. This is the answer to your question. Thank you. [end recording]

FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH VIEWS HABIB'S MISSION, SAM'S

JN102040 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1810 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] In its edition which appears tomorrow, FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH, the PLO's central organ, publishes the following editorial:

There is big concern in Washington because Begin has reached the point of no return. Philip Habib comes to defuse the state of confrontation between Syria and Israel so that the situation in Lebanon will return to its previous status. This cannot be accepted. Mr Philip Habib wants to dissociate Sannin from Al-Biqa' and Al-Biqa' from southern Lebanon. Mr Habib sees nothing but the SAM's, which should be removed from Lebanon in order to leave the door open to the Phantom planes to implement the threats made by Begin, who 2 days ago made an oath to the Galiliee settlers that he will annihilate the Palestinians.

Washington's diplomacy concerning the SAM's is based on disintegrating Lebanon at a time when Washington claims that it is eager to preserve Lebanon's unity and sovereignty. Philip Habib proposes an accord, which is really ridiculous, based on partitioning Lebanon under the pretext of a hot confrontation between Syria and Israel. It is obvious that Begin, even before his meeting with Habib, started to adopt the U.S. solutions. Begin wants his troops to have a free hand in order to swallow the southern part and to annihilate the Palestinians. Actually, Begin's objective of annihilating the Palestinians is more than a mere election ploy. This objective is the core of the Zionist ideology.

Philip Habib proposes solutions among existing countries and leaves the Palestinians to meet their fate at the hands of Begin and his planes and guns. We are aware of the delicate, complex situation, yet Begin's irresponsibility has taken matters to the point of no return. He has no other road but limited or comprehensive aggression.

Here enters Philip Habib's role. If Washington is more than concerned over a comprehensive aggression that would return the conflict to its essence--the Arabs' struggle against Zionism and its protector, Washington--the U.S. administration is at the same time encouraging and supporting a limited Israeli war against the Palestinian revolution, a war whose limit and area will be confined to the joint forces in the south and which will achieve for Tel Aviv the unachieveable objective: the annihilation of the Palestinians. Philip Habib said that he is absolutely unconcerned about Palestinians and that he is only concerned about the recognized countries and U.S. relations with these countries.

We are certain that this time the U.S. policy will be received with deaf ears, especially after what has happened during the past 4 years at the hands of Washington. Here we add that setting Begin's hands free against the Palestinians in the south is no longer reasonable or acceptable in the wake of the missle issue. Begin's request for free movement for the Phanton planes against the Palestinians has become part of the painful memories of the past, during which we stood fast and fought in Al-'Urqub, An-Nabatiyah, Tyre, Sidon, and the camps and during which enemy bombs and rockets killed our children and women. Nevertheless, we kept the position and the will. We were the battalion of confrontation on behalf of our Arab nations, which has recently and through Syria's steadfastness managed to deter the Israeli arrogance against Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution by bringing SAM's into Lebanon to protect the Arab Deterrent Forces while performing their legitimate mission in Lebanon.

It is very likely that the limited war would be the possible option for Begin, who has gone beyond the limits designed for his role in Lebanon by Washington. Given this possibility, several issues come to the surface, issues that should be placed before our eyes. The first issue is that Israel's failure to budge the SAM's from their positions and its impotence as well to strike at the bases of these missiles reverses the balance of military power in the area for the first time, thus making us equal with Israel in the balance of power.

The second issue is that the Palestinian revolution, under the canopy of a balance of power between Syria and Israel, possesses for the first time since the collapse of Arab solidarity a pan-Arab umbrella enabling it to carry out its armed struggle. This situation lifts the Israeli destructive war machine from the Palestinian revolution's bases and masses, the machine that has inflicted grave losses on southern Lebanon and transformed it into scorched earth.

We recall that the enemy leaders have, since Camp David, been exercising the right to chase and strike at our bases due to the upset of the military balance between the Arabs and Israel.

The third issue pertains to the beginning of the end of the Israeli term in Lebanon. If Israel's attack on the helicopters in Sannin was intended to tell those at the Ba'bada Palace that the accord should be with it first and then with its agents and in accordance with its wishes then deterring the enemy air force and paralyzing its movements in Lebanese airspace should be applied to the entire Israeli role, be it on the Phalangist or Sa'd Haddad's levels. Then, however, Bashir al-Jumayyil will not have the chance to say again what he said after the Israeli intervention against the deterrent forces in Sannin. Bashir al-Jumayyil said at that time that he refuses to sign any statement denying his cooperation with Israel. He made a proposal for approving the accord plan, namely, that the Phalangist Party should have the right to choose the next president. He also set a condition for his participation in the government, namely, that he should become the defense minister. In other words, under the balance of power that existed 3 days before the entry of the SAM's, Israel should assume the duty of forming the Lebanese Government.

The dangerous game now has adverse effects on the players and, consequently, the balance has been reversed and Bashir al-Jumayyil is now facing one alternative, acceptance of the Arab solution for the Lebanese crisis without depending on his alliance with Tel Aviv.

The chances of solving the Lebanese crisis are closer today than any time before. The Israeli barrier under the canopy of the new balance has become secondary in affecting the events and forces. These are the results of the new situation in Lebanon. Philip Habib's tour is only aimed at preventing these results from being practically implemented. On the other hand, Korniyenko's visit to Damascus and his meetings with President al-Asad and Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] stressed the need to defeat the Israeli arrogance and reiterated Syria's legitimate right to defend its armed forces.

These conclusions confirm the strongly-worded remarks by Soviet President Brezhnev on the Soviet Union's determination to defeat and curb the war advocates and the Soviet Union's commitment to supporting its allies in all their battles against the imperialists and their proteges. These Soviet words at this particular time are a warning to Israel against carrying out a possible military adventure.

If we link this stand with the warning, reported by TASS 2 days ago, to Israel due to its intentions to strike at the Palestinian revolution in southern Lebanon, the image becomes clear before us. The Soviet Union fully supports the Syrian steadfastness and the joint Palestinian-Lebanese confrontation of the Israeli aggression. Consequently, the red lines which existed before the SAM's do not exist now. Israel cannot deal separately with the Palestinians and Lebanese in southern Lebanon, nor can Philip Habib separate flesh from bones in the one pan-Arab battle.

We are now at a historic moment. We must know how to hold it because if we miss it, Israel will again return to its arrogance and to its role of occupation and division in the Middle East. The strongest possibility, as we said, is: Israel should choose the lesser of two evils--leaving the question of tackling the missile issue to U.S. diplomacy and, in return , trying its luck with the Palestinian revolution in southern Lebanon. This possibility also means that Israel should adhere to keeping its forces in the areas where the joint forces are stationed until Syria agrees to withdraw the SAM's from Al-Biqa'.

Although the areas of the Israeli moves are getting narrower every hour, it is impossible for anyone to expect Israel's complete retreat from the option of the comprehensive or the limited war against the Palestinians because this would mean that Israel under Begin accepts a military, political and historical defeat without fighting. He who is aware of the reality of the Zionist state knows well that on the issue of security, the fragile Zionist entity will make such a defeat have far-reaching consequences. That is why the United States will not allow such a crack to befall the Zionist entity. The entire Israeli structure is basically founded on military superiority. If the military balance is changed to equilibrium instead of superiority, then a real collapse and severe cracking would befall this entity, which is based on factors that have not attained their social harmony 30 years after the establishment of its aggressive state in Palestine.

All these reasons render the Israeli operation against the Palestinian revolution inevitable and inescapable. Therefore, what Mr Philip Habib wants is for this limited war against the Palestinians not to be changed into a comprehensive war in which Syria or perhaps others might enter. If geography refuses to divide the one battle, the recent Arab stands, specifically the firm Syrian stands and also the clear-cut Soviet stand, make the U.S. and Israeli wager baseless. Dealing separately with the Palestinians and the joint forces is no longer possible, as it was in the recent past.

If the SAM weapon has entered the battle and wrecked the Israeli superiority on land [as heard], it is the right of the Palestinians to urge the Arab brothers to be prepared to use all their weapons in this battle. The battle against the Palestinian revolution determines not only the fate of the Palestinian people but also that of the Arab nation and the pan-Arab confrontation against Israel. Triumph in this battle is equal to triumph in the achievement of the military equilibrium between us and the Israeli enemy.

Our nation is called upon to side with Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement in the battle of Arab fate.

WAFA EDITOR CRITICAL OF PHILIP HABIB'S VISIT

JN081911 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Philip Habib is not a mediator and has no qualifications to make us interact with his mission except with extreme suspicion and caution. This is the stand of the Palestinians and Lebanese nationalists toward the mission of President Reagan's envoy to the area. Habib has come to the area not to diffuse the so-called possible war, but to deal with the results of this war if it happens. Political observers say that in the best of circumstances, Habib may try to achieve privileges for the Israeli position in Lebanon by peaceful means. If he cannot do so, it does not matter if a big war occurs, the results of which he will deal with whatever they may be.

For more clarification of the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist stand on Habib's mission, we cite the article published by the WAFA news agency entitled "The United States Is Playing the Role of the Wolf in Disguise of a Lamb" and written by WAFA's political editor: Representative of the U.S. administration Philip Habib is in the region now not for the good of the masses throughout Lebanon, not for the good of the inhabitants of the Palestinian camps and citizens of the southern Lebanese villages who are daily faced with destruction and death through U.S. arms and Israeli instruments, and not for the good of Beirut's citizens who are daily victims of the missiles and bullets of sniping and murder.

What has happened and is happening in Lebanon is the doing of various U.S. administrations, beginning with Nixon's administration and its godfather Kissinger and ending with Reagan's administration. This includes Carter's administration, during which the Camp David design was implemented with all the oppressive, destructive processes required by the design and the attempts to remove the Palestinian-Lebanese obstacle. Because the representative of the U.S. administration is in the area, we Palestinians, Lebanese and Arab masses must be more cautious and armed with reality. The history of the U.S. administrations concerning us is full of lessons and morals, massacres and dangers and conspiracies against the security, safety and peace of our peoples.

If there is any need to prove this, we say to those who forget the September massacres in Jordan, which were applauded by Nixon's administration and its godfather Kissinger: This fascist Israeli war against our Palestinian and Lebanese people--this war which has continued for 6 years, killed thousands of martyrs and caused many to be injured--is being capped by this belligerence and the daily destruction spread by U.S.-made Israeli planes against the Palestinian peoples in the Palestinian camps and cities and villages of the south. The United States, therefore, is a party to what is happening and is not a mediator. Actually, it is the primary quarter responsible for all these disasters and this destruction. It is working to fragment and divide Lebanon and even to fragment, divide and disintegrate the whole Arab homeland. The United States is not fit to be an arbiter or mediator. The epithet of the wolf disguised as a lamb fits it very aptly. This farce must end; we must end the situation in the hope that the Arab masses and the regimes of steadfastness and confrontation will make up their minds and face their responsibilities. May the ugly U.S. face disappear from the region forever.

'CRISIS FABRICATED' BY ISRAEL ON MISSILE ISSUE

JN082024 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1638 GMT 8 May 81

[Station commentary: "Under the Possibilities of Explosion or Those of Calmness, the Root of the Problem Remains the Same--Continued Zionist Aggression Against the Palestinian People and Their National Rights"]

[Text] The situation may explode any minute. Also, we may hear at any moment that the crisis is over and that a round of political negotiations is about to be held with the aim of finding some kind of solution to the Lebanese crisis and its extensions and complications.

Everything is possible so long as we are still passing through the stage of open possibilities under which opportunities are equal--opportunities for calmness or the limited or all-out explosion.

There is, however, a constant principle which remains clear and firm under the relative calmness and the violent explosion as well in the political and military moves. This principle is: This area, from its ocean to its Gulf, will not know tranquility, stability and peace so long as the Zionist enemy is obscuring the Palestinian and Arab rights and is daily consipiring for the sake of kindling the fire in the Arab area in order to divert the attention of its people from regaining the rights and land.

The Zionist enemy is making several rationalizations, the latest being the so-called missile crisis at which the enemy made a big fuss merely over the installation of a few Syrian batteries that constitute the minimum right of self-defense [word indistinct] the Israeli threats and the mass annihilation operations by the Israeli planes against the Lebanese and Palestinians.

The crisis fabricated by the enemy on this issue is one of irrefutable proofs that this area will not know peace and stability under the aggressive Zionist presence. According to the enemy's interest and as his racist leaders see it, all the red lines vanish and all considerations become futile and Begin will have the right to issue orders to his troops to occupy new areas in Lebanon or to destroy new installations in Lebanon because this would serve Israeli security, which is always above all other considerations. How can the area enjoy any degree of calmness and stability under the presence of such a side which is carrying a box of matches, striking the matchsticks one after the other and not minding if the whole area is set afire?

The world is now facing a new, unique example of continued aggressions against the interests of Arab countries which have the right to preserve their presence, independent entity and peoples. If the world truly believes that this explosive crisis should be solved at this vital spot, the first condition for a solution is to curb the Zionist aggressive and expansionist trend and to admit that the root of the problem lies in Israel's continued occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories and its continued confiscation of the Palestinian rights, represented by the return, self-determination and the setting up of the independent state. The issue is not one of red or green lines on Lebanon's map; rather, it is the issue of the entire area, about which everyone agrees that the continued volatile factor lies in Israel and its aggressive and expansionist trend against all the area's peoples. Consequently, there can be no effective solutions of any kind that do not begin with a basic and radical solution of the area's problem: the Palestinian problem. Needless to say, the solution should be a just one.

U.S. GREEN LIGHT SAID GIVEN TO ISRAEL FOR WAR

JN101734 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1517 GMT 10 May 81

[From the "With the Events" program]

[Text] Begin and Shamir and many of the players in the Israeli Government band are beating war drums. They are generous enough now and then to declare a stand, which appears to be good, under the title of giving opportunities to Philip Habib. The war tune played by Begin and his group is not just an election campaign, although it is being utilized in this respect. It is a serious introduction to a military adventure,which seems to have become a vital issue, to improve the Israeli strategic position after it was afflicted with some damage, which is not acceptable in the arena of Arab-Israeli conflict.

The New York TIMES has revealed part of the serious talks between Begin and Ronald Reagan on the facts of the Middle East situation after Syria's introduction of SAM missiles into Lebanese lands. Begin, as he told Ronald Reagan, sees that this operation has created a situation in the region that resembles what prevailed before the 1967 war. This means that these conditions constitute an inevitable introduction to war.

The U.S. New York TIMES has reviewed Reagan's position on this communicated to him by Begin. The U.S. President says that Israel is right in institing on the withdrawal of SAM missiles from Al-Biqa, and he supports this determination. He sent Philip Habib to the region in a bid to solve the crisis on this basis.

The Israeli prime minister can depend on this U.S. stand, which can be seen as a green light to Israel to carry out a military operation. The U.S. President prefers that to be done after Habib exhausts the chances for solving the problem based on Israel's peace conditions. For thus, the conditions for war are almost complete, with the Israeli side awaiting the proper timing.

Are the conditions for war complete with the Arabs? We see it as a historic chance that is opening widely for the Arab nation, if it grasps this chance, for a serious and complete war using its political, economic and military weapons. It will certainly win the war by depending on its intrinsic capabilities and the strength of its alliances with friends in addition to the legitimacy of its war and the respect of the world for it if the war is bravely carried out.

NONALIGNED PEACE COMMITTEE ARRIVES IN IRAQ

JN111205 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 May (INA)--The nonaligned ministerial peace committee arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit to Iraq to resume its efforts to solve the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. The committee, formed by the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference held in New Delhi in February, includes Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister Isidoro Malmierca, Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao, Zambian Foreign Affairs Minister Lameck Goma and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

The committee was received by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, the Foreign Ministry under secretaries, the ambassadors of the committee's member states and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, director of the PLO office in Baghdad.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES 8-10 MAY

Communique No 330

JN081657 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)--The Iraqi forces have killed 112 Iranians and destroyed 2 infantry positions, 2 tanks, 1 armored troop carrier, 9 guns [as received], 5 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 2 observation posts and 3 stockpiles of hardware. Communique No 330 issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command said that Iraqi antiaircraft fire downed an enemy fighter plane in the Shush area. The following is the text of the communique: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our armed forces continued to strike at the racist Persian enemy in the operation sectors. The following is the outcome of our armed forces' activities yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Two were killed in the Nowsud area.
B. One vehicle and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area. One serviceable vehicle was seized in the same area.
C. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our units in the Gilan-e Gharb area. Our units pounded the concentration with various arms, killing 29.
D. Ten were killed and one stockpile of hardware was destroyed in the Mimak area opposite our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. Seven were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Mehran area.
F. Using their various arms, our units pounded enemy concentrations opposite our positions in the Dezful area, forcing them to retreat after sustaining losses of 32 dead and 2 tanks, 1 armored troop carrier, 3 guns, 1 vehicle loaded with hardware, 1 rocket launcher, 1 infantry position and 1 stockpile of hardware.
G. Enemy concentrations were sighted opposite our units in the Shush area. Our units pounded them, forcing them to retreat after sustaining losses of 18 dead and 1 gun, 1 vehicle, 1 infantry position and 1 observation post. An enemy fighter plane was downed in the same area by our antiaircraft fire.
H. Our units pounded enemy troop concentrations in the Abadan area, killing 14 and destroying 1 vehicle. This brings known enemy losses to 112 dead and 2 infantry positions, 2 tanks, 1 armored troop carrier, 4 guns, 5 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 12 observation posts, 3 stockpiles of hardware and 1 fighter plane.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Nine martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One troop carrier and five vehciles were damaged.

III. At 0900 today enemy planes raided At-Ta'mim Governorate, aiming at civilian installations and residential areas in the Dibs area. Our ground resistance intercepted the enemy planes, forcing them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 May 1981

Communique No 331

JN091609 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Bagdad, 9 May (INA)--During the past 24 hours the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted on the Persian enemy human losses amounting to 64 dead. This was stated by Communique No 331 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 331 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassinate. Our armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today, with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Ten were killed and one field gun was destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
B. Three were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
C. Eight were killed in the Sumar region.
D. Three were killed and one ammunition stockpile was destroyed in the Mimak region opposite our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. One vehicle and one observation post were destroyed in the Dezful region.
F. Eight were killed and one field gun, one observation post and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Shush region.
G. One was killed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
H. Our units hit enemy troop concentrations and positions in the Abadan region, killing 31 and destroying 2 observation posts and 2 ammunition stockpiles.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 64 dead, 2 field guns, 1 vehicle, 4 observation posts and 4 ammunition stockpiles.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Nine martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One mortar and five vehicles were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 May 1981

Communique No 332

JN101807 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)--During the past 24 hours the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted grave losses in life on the Iranian enemy amounting to 35 dead. This was stated in Communique No 332 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening. The following is the test of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is the outcome of our armed forces activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Five were killed and three infantry positions were destroyed in the Mehran area.
B. Our units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Dezful area, forcing it to flee after sustaining 16 dead. Our units also destroyed an infantry position in the same area.
C. One position [as received], one vehicle loaded with hardware and one observation post were destroyed in the Shush area.
D. Two were killed in the Ahvaz area.
E. Using various weapons, our units pounded enemy troop concentrations in the Abadan area, forcing them to retreat after sustaining 12 dead. Our units also destroyed an observation post and one stockpile of hardware in the same area.

This brings known enemy losses to 35 dead, 4 infantry positions, 1 gun, 1 vehicle, 2 observation posts and 1 stockpile of hardware.

II. Our units found the bodies of nine enemy troops who were killed in the recent Sar-e Pol-e Zahab battle. They were buried in the same area.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Nine martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Three mortars were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 May 1981

SYRIAN OBJECTIVES IN MISSILE CRISIS SCORNED

JN081638 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 May 81

[Special program: "Lebanon in a Week"]

[Excerpts] U.S. envoy Philip Habib began talks in Beirut with Lebanese officials today, and he is due in Damascus tomorrow for similar talks with the Syrian president before he leaves for Israel to continue his contacts with the three parties in the Syrian [as heard] crisis. Meanwhile, the Soviet deputy foreign minister is holding talks with the Damascus regime's officials on the Syrian-Israeli crisis in Lebanon.

It is quite clear, then, that the U.S. interference [as heard] as a mediator accepted by both Syria and Israel was the result of prior U.S.-Soviet understanding to start the operation of internationalizing the problem of the region and to impose the two superpowers' hegemony over the states of the Arab east, particularly over the Arabian Peninsula, which has a big economic importance. Therefore, the crisis which the Damascus sectarian regime is fabricating answers many of the questions which were raised in the minds of the Arabs and the Lebanese in particular. So, in order to emerge from its international and Arab isolation, the Al-Asad regime wants to impose its presence, beginning with the Lebanese arena, even if it is at the expense of Lebanon's suffering, freedom and unity or at the expense of the Palestinian cause and the entire pan-Arab security. The Al-Asad 'Alawite regime wants to create excuses for internationalizing the Lebanese cause on the one hand, and for placing Lebanon under the umbrella of international solutions and the policy of fait accompli on the other.

Such a development will definitely lead to the liquidation of the Palestinian cause and the entire issue of the Arab-Zionist struggle by means of international and bilateral agreements between Syria and Israel. These agreements will eventually become an accomplished fact in the area, thus adding more barriers in the face of the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement for which the Arabs are struggling and which was unanimously agreed upon at the Arab summit conferences in Baghdad, Tunis and Amman. The Al-Asad 'Alawite regime managed, through its illegitimate practices, to cause a serious crack in the wall of the Arab confrontation and in the body of the eastern front by either dividing Lebanon into disputing factions and sects or by fabricating a crisis with Jordan, massing forces and plotting against it.

The Al-Asad regime's objective is crystal clear: to weaken the Arab ability to confront Israel on the real contact lines and to transfer the Arab-Israeli confrontation to another impractical front, which will pave the way for the accomplishment of unilateral and bilateral settlements. These objectives are no less dangerous than those of Camp David in part and parcel. Moreover, the aims of these objectives are also to eliminate the remainder of the Arab ability that is still resisting the attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause, to internationalize the area's crisis and to place the area itself under the superpowers' hegemony.

The Arab nation must, therefore, move and face with firmness the Damascus regime's practices, belligerency and plotting in the Lebanese arena before this dangerous hotbed extends and before Al-Asad's plot spreads to the heart of the Arab nation.

ARMY COMMANDER RECEIVES U.S. OFFICIAL WEST

JN091008 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Amman, 9 May (PETRA)--His Excellency Staff Lt Gen Ash-Sharif Zayd Ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, received in his office today Francis West, U.S. assistant deputy secretary of defense, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by the chief of staff, several armed forces officers and the U.S. charge in Amman.

MATERIALS ON HABIB'S TALKS WITH LEBANESE LEADERS

Al-Wazzan Meeting, Comments

NC081354 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] U.S. Envoy Philip Habib and his party this morning met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. The meeting was attended by the director general of protocol and public relations, 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Shaykhah. During the approximately 1-hour meeting, Prime Minister al-Wazzan explained his viewpoint on developments in Lebanon and the area. Following the meeting, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said:

[Begin recording] The meeting was useful. I had the opportunity to brief Mr Philip Habib, the personal representative of President Reagan, on the true situation. As usual, I was extremely frank on everything pertaining to our Lebanese issue, particularly on Israel's continuing aggressive role and its serious effects on Lebanon, the area and world peace. As long as the purpose of his visit is to find solutions, it was necessary to say the bare facts, as is the case in talking with every person tackling a problem or with every physician.

[Question] Did Mr Habib carry any proposals?

[Al-Wazzan] He did not actually carry any specific proposals. But through some questions he was trying to concentrate on some ideas that he apparently has in mind.

[Question] Do you think that Mr Habib's visit to Lebanon, Damascus and occupied Jerusalem will have a positive effect on Lebanon?

[Al-Wazzan] All I can say is that I met with a man who came here on an official mission that must be carried out and completed. The results depend on the circumstances and intentions.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, can you elaborate on the ideas Mr Habib brought?

[Al-Wazzan] This is part of the secret talks, but the results, when they occur, will be made public.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, the U.S. envoy's visit was accompanied by an escalation in the security situation. Is there an explanation?

[Al-Wazzan] I do not agree that the visit was accompanied by an escalation. We witness security escalations every day, with occasion or without occasion.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, you appear optimistic.

[Al-Wazzan] How difficult life would be was it not for hope.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, did you maintain the same position regarding the Syrian missiles that you announced after you left the Presidential Palace?

[Al-Wazzan] Am I the kind who changes his stand? [end recording]

Al-As'ad Meeting

NC081406 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] During his meeting with the U.S. envoy at noon today, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad asked that he advise the Lebanese parties to avoid flareups, because they serve Israel's purposes. He considers that the deployment of missiles in Al-Biqa' is a means for defending Lebanese airspace. He said that Israel's threats of war are made for electioneering purposes by the Israeli parties. Speaker al-As'ad asked the U.S. administration to try to find a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis that would ensure the Palestinian people's right to an independent state. In this way, he said, Lebanon can be helped to overcome its ordeal.

Pierre Al-Jumayyil, Sham'un

NC081602 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] As scheduled, U.S. Envoy Philip Habib this afternoon met with Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and [former] President Camille Sham'un. Habib met with Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil for 1 hour, from 1500 to 1600. At 1600, he began his meeting with Sham'un.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil described the meeting as useful and successful. He said: I felt that Dr Habib understands the Lebanese problem. This is not strange because he is of Lebanese origin. He raised useful and objective questions. We briefed him on the reality of the Lebanese issue and explained to him that the Lebanese formula is a civilization in itself.

Al-Jumayyil added: We affirmed that if there is a real intention to end the crisis that we are in, it is necessary to find what we have often called a just dictator's force so that agreements would not remain just ink on paper. Al-Jumayyil concluded: What brought us to this situation has been the absence of an implementation power.

Bashir al-Jumayyil Statement

NC082057 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Mr Philip Habib met with Lebanese forces commander Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil from 2000 to 2200 today. The Lebanese forces commander made a statement in which he said:

First, we thank President Reagan for sending one of his closest aides to Lebanon in order to closely follow up the situation. I believe that the U.S. administration is thoroughly acquainted with the situation and there is no need of sending other envoys to Lebanon. Therefore, the meetings that Mr Habib held in Lebanon all dealt with how to end this crisis and how to help Lebanon and the countries of the region avoid a major flareup.

Shaykh Bashir added: We wish them success and we hope these efforts will succeed. As far as we are concerned, we are ready to do our utmost to help. Mr Philip's mission and efforts and those of the U.S. administration are aimed at averting any jolt in this area, the consequences of which no one can predict. As for the results, we can only say that, God willing, they will be good and in the interest of Lebanon, no matter how. Seven years of strife are enough.

On this occasion, Shaykh Bashir said: I would like to thank U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean for all the assistance he has rendered to Lebanon. He is in fact cooperating with the Lebanese administration and the parties concerned. He has taken a great deal upon himself and has sincerely helped to resolve this crisis. He is to be thanked for all his efforts.

Zahlah Ministers' Comments

NC090901 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] At 0830 U.S. Envoy Philip Habib received, at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Al-Yarzi, Zahlah Ministers Ilyas al-Hirawi, Joseph Skaf and Joseph Abu Khatir. Following the half-hour meeting, Minister al-Hirawi said: We devoted most of the meeting to the question of Zahlah because of the tragic situation there. We hope there will be a peaceful solution that will save Lebanon and the region from ruination and destruction.

Al-Hirawi was asked: Has Habib submitted anything specific to you regarding Zahlah? The minister answered: He has submitted nothing, but we have submitted some matters that he will discuss with the Syrian side. We are awaiting answers.

The U.S. envoy then received Walid Junblatt for 1 hour. Following the meeting, Junblatt was asked: Has Mr Habib asked you for anything specific concerning the Lebanese question?

Junblatt replied: Envoy Habib asked for a clarification of the developments in Lebanon. As a delegation representing the National Movement, we concentrated on the need to achieve accord. As for the rest, we consider it as details.

Junblatt was then asked: Has the U.S. envoy submitted security measures to stop the fighting? Junblatt answered: We concentrated on the question over Zahlah and the need to withdraw the alien armed men from it and restore calm. The question of the heights and peaks is another matter.

Asked whether he sensed a serious action to end Lebanon's affliction, Junblatt answered: Ask him, not me. I have no connection with this matter, and I will not divulge everything we discussed.

At 1000, Habib received Amal Movement chairman lawyer Nabih Birri and lawyers Husayn al-Husayni and Rafiq Shahin.

HABIB DEPARTS FOR DAMASCUS CARRYING PROPOSALS

NC100644 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] The U.S. envoy has left Lebanon. He will return following his talks in Damascus and Tel Aviv, according to what he told those he met yesterday who quote him as saying that he is carrying with him to Damascus some negotiable proposals or ideas on the problem over the Syrian missiles in Lebanon. These ideas include freezing the missile crisis and creating a new security situation in Al-Biqa' providing for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from the ridges around Zahlah and from the Sannin peaks. There has been nothing official on these ideas, but most newspapers reported on them this morning.

OFFICIALS MEET ON HABIB VISIT, CURRENT SITUATION

NC091234 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis this morning met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. The meeting was dedicated to an assessment of the results of the consultations and contacts that have been held by the U.S. envoy to Lebanon, and to the stances that have been taken by the parties to these consultations. The conferees also discussed the steps that the government can take in light of these consultations to contain any deterioration in the situation and to quicken the country's pace along the path out of this crisis.

Furthermore, Prime Minister al-Wazzan with Minister Butrus and President Sarkis also reviewed the security and political developments occurring on the Lebanese scene.

Al-Wazzan's Comments

NC091350 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 May 81

[Excerpt] Following the meeting among Prime Minister al-Wazzan, President Sarkis and Foreign Minister Butrus, which concluded at 1330, the prime minister was asked why the Cabinet has not convened in the present circumstances.

He answered: The Cabinet is in permanent session. Whenever there is a reason for a Cabinet meeting, it will meet. The consultations are continuing with all quarters.

The prime minister was asked: Do you expect a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Syrian crisis?

He answered: Personally, what I expect is what I can do to serve my country. However, and because the whole world is making unusual moves in this area and because strife in all its kinds exists, we are doing our utmost.

He was also asked: When will Minister Khaddam return to Beirut?

He answered: We know quite well that Mr Philip Habib today began his contacts with the Syrian officials. However, I believe that he will come around the beginning of next week. We have not yet been given a final date. It is quite possible that a date will be set following today's meeting between Mr Habib and Minister Khaddam.

WORKING FORCES' LEADER VIEWS HABIB'S MISSION

JN092004 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Beirut--Kamal Shatila, secretary general of the Union of Working Peoples' Forces, has stressed that it is a basic right for the Arab Deterrent Forces, which are the legitimate forces in Lebanon, to use all defensive means to protect themselves. He added that the so-called missile crisis is a blatant intervention by Israel in Lebanon's internal affairs.

He described U.S. Envoy Philip Habib's visit to the region as pouring oil on the fire of the Lebanese crisis if he intends to put pressure on Syria and to adopt the point of view of the isolationist parties.

He explained that Israel, which is backed by U.S. weapons, seeks to explode the situation in the Lebanese arena whenever signs of establishing national accord appear on the horizon. He added that Israel carries out continued aggressions and provocations to obstruct this accord.

He added that the U.S. envoy must understand that if Israel's hand is paralyzed and leaves Lebanon, then security and stability and accord will be established because all the Lebanese people want Lebanon to be united as it was before. They do not want divided ministates.

VOL REPORTS SHELLING DURING HABIB'S TALKS

NC081753 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 May 81

[Excerpts] The security situation suddenly flared up on all the axes of the capital and the suburbs this afternoon as U.S. Envoy Habib continued his contacts with Lebanese leaders at the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Al-Yarzah.

Since 1600 today, the Syrians and their collaborators began heating up the axes of Sodeco, At-Tibbiyah, At-Tayyunah, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Al-Hadath. These axes are witnessing heavy shelling directed at the residential quarters, particularly in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Al-Hadath. Since 1800, Al-Hadath has been the target of heavy shelling, particularly the areas of St Theresa and Al-Maqsud.

Shelling is also continuing against the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah residential quarters and the Lebanese Army positions in Al-Hadath and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. These two areas are close to Al-Yarzah, where it is easy for President Reagan's envoy to hear the brotherly Syrian symphony, particularly following the fall of some shells near the U.S. Ambassador's residence and in the perimeter of the presidential palace.

The axes of Al-Barjawi, the palace of justice and the museum are also witnessing exchanges with various kinds of weapons. Heavy shells also fell on Al-Ashrafiyah, particularly around the Rizq Tower.

Meanwhile, we have learned that the Syrian forces, assisted by the Palestinians, leftists and their collaborators, are consolidating and fortifying their positions all along the contact lines in the capital and the suburbs.

VOL REPORTS SITUATION, SYRIAN REINFORCEMENTS

NC100738 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 10 May 81

[Excerpts] There are no clear signs of political and military remedies for the current problems, but a general atmosphere of patience and expectation exists nonetheless.

Although the indiscriminate artillery shelling of Beirut and its suburbs, as well as areas in Al-Matn and Kasrawan, ceased this morning, caution prevails because the Syrians and Palestinians did not abide by the three cease-fire decisions last night.

Gunfire and explosions have not stopped ompletely this morning, so tension continues on the contact lines in the areas that were the target of the Syrian and Palestinian guns. Heavy bursts of gunfire were heard this morning in the areas of the commercial center, Al-Barbir, Shatila, the museum and At-Tayyunah.

At 2210 last night, six shells fell on the Qamar School in Furn ash-Shubbak. Shells also fell in the port area, forcing some ships to stay away. Six (grat) shells fell in Juniyah, causing material damage. Seven other shells fell in the woods of the patriarchate in Bkirki.

Reports from Zahlah say that heavy sniper fire started at 0630 this morning directed at (Harat ar-Rashivah) from the direction of Harqat. At 0100 the industrial center and Al-Mu'allaqah came under sniper fire, and 88-mm mortar shells fell on the perimeter of the Anglican secondary school. At 0645 this morning Qa' ar-Rim came under sniper fire.

According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, at about 0330 today the Syrian forces closed the Syrian-Lebanese border road in Al-Biqa' in order to bring in reinforcements. This road was only reopened a short while ago. Travelers coming from the area say that these reinforcements were sent to three axes: the Shtawrah-Ta'nayil axis; the western Al-Biqa' axis, and the axis of the area known as the Al-Urqub Road.

NEW SAM MISSILE BASE SAID ESTABLISHED IN AL-BIQA'

NC081357 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] According to information received today by the Voice of Lebanon, a center for a SAM missile base has recently been established in a Palestinian training camp in the ('Ayn al-'Arwad) area in An-Nabi Sbat village in Al-Biqa'. This is at a time when the Soviet Union and the United States are conducting diplomatic efforts to deal with the Syrian-Israeli crisis resulting from the deployment of SAM missile batteries.

AL-MURABITUN TERMS MISSILES 'INEVITABLE ACTION'

JN101954 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] In a statement issued at the end of a meeting held by the Command Council and the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Independent Nasirite Movement, Al-Murabitun stressed that the introduction of missiles into Lebanon is a military affair that helps the Arab Deterrent Forces perform their mission in Lebanon and is an inevitable action to confront the Zionist-isolationist-American plot.

AL-WAZZAN VIEWS MITTERRAND ELECTION IN FRANCE

NC110731 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] Commenting on Mitterrand's victory, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said: When the people choose, we have no comment. We support and respect democracy. All we are interested in is that the real attitudes toward us in Lebanon and toward our Arab causes, including the prime cause of Palestine, should be in harmony with our fundamental aspirations and the principles of right and justice.

PHILIP HABIB HOLDS TALKS WITH KHADDAM, AL-ASAD

9 May Khaddam Meeting

JN091941 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Philip Habib, personal envoy of U.S. President Reagan, at 1730 this evening. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister; Dr Sabah Qabbani, director of the American Department; Dr Rafiq Juwayjati, director of the West Europe Department and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. The meeting ended at 2015. The discussions will be resumed tomorrow morning.

10 May Al-Asad Talks

JN101621 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Damascus, 10 May (SANA)--President Hafiz al-Asad has reaffirmed Syria's viewpoint concerning its adherence to Lebanon's independence and unity and nonintervention in Lebanon's internal affairs. This came when President Hafiz al-Asad received Philip Habib, envoy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, this afternoon. During this meeting Habib handed President Hafiz al-Asad a message from President Reagan. He then briefed President al-Asad on his mission and the contacts he held with the Lebanese Government and the various Lebanese sides. This was followed by a review of the recent developments in Lebanon and an analysis of the Israeli intervention in Lebanon's affairs and against the Arab Deterrent Forces and the reflections of this intervention on security and peace in the region.

The meeting was attended by Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Nasir Qaddur, assistant minister of foreign affairs; Morris Draper, deputy assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs; and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

KORNIYENKO MAKES STATEMENT ON TALKS; LEAVES

JN081631 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Georgiy Korniyenko, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, and his delegation left Damascus for Moscow this afternoon following a 3-day visit to Syria during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister; 'Adnan Nashshabah, director of the Foreign Ministry's Eastern Europe Department; a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials; and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

In a predeparture statement to a SANA correspondent, Korniyenko asserted that his talks with Syrian officals were extremely fruitful, successful and useful. He said that the two sides' stands were principled and firm, particularly on matters related to the achievement of peace in the Middle East.

Monte Carlo Report

JN082126 Monte Carlo Radio in Arabic to the Arab World 2045 GMT 8 May 81

[Excerpt] Intensive local, Arab and international contacts have taken place prior to the arrival of the U.S. envoy in Damascus. The most important of these contacts as reported by our Damascus correspondent Lewis Faris: [Begin recording] The talks held in Damascus by Soviet envoy Georgiy Korniyenko, who left Damascus for Moscow today, were declared by Korniyenko to be extremely fruitful, successful and useful, adding that the two sides' stands were principled and firm.

Diplomatic sources here believe that the Soviet Union, at a time when it endeavored to avert a comprehensive confrontation between Syria and Israel, will never allow Syria to be defeated or its army to be humiliated. These sources cite the Soviet envoy as saying that President Hafiz al-Asad is right and that his measures in Lebanon are merely defensive measures. We understand and support them, he added. This explains Al-Asad's declared satisfaction over the outcome of the talks with Korniyenko.

The Soviet envoy held talks with Yasir 'Arafat last night following the latter's Gulf tour and his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. The diplomatic sources believe that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] had explained the Palestinian views in an attempt to achieve joint coordination in all fields. [end recording]

AL-KASM SAYS SYRIA CAN COUNTER ANY AGGRESSION

JN101332 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] At 1000 today the Cabinet held an extraordinary session under Prime Minister Dr Abd ar-Rauf al-Kasm. During this session the Cabinet reviewed the general political, military and security developments in the area, particularly in Lebanon.

Dr al-Kasm explained that the current escalation of tension in the area by the United States, Israel and their allies in Lebanon is artificial and directly linked with Syria's comprehensive initiative to end the painful crisis in Lebanon and to play an effective role in achieving Lebanese national accord on correct and sound bases.

Dr al-Kasm added: The Zionist enemy has realized the danger posed by Syria's earnest efforts to bring the Lebanese national accord to a definite and successful conclusion. Such a conclusion would end the Lebanese crisis and prevent Israel from continuing to exploit this crisis on the political, military and security levels and justifying its interference in Lebanon's affairs and infiltration into southern Lebanon to achieve certain obvious expansionists designs.

The prime minister asserted that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, considers itself nationally [qawmiyan] responsible for protecting Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution against any Zionist aggression. Therefore, activities backed by threats and ultimatums will only make Syria more determined to stick to its honorable stand. Syria has formulated a strategy with integrated means and objectives to counter any aggression. Syria will continue to effectively contribute toward pushing Lebanese national accord toward its real objectives and preventing Israel and its allies in Lebanon, with all firmness and confrontation, from continuing to plot against Lebanon and the Arab nation.

The prime minister added: The current phase calls for extreme vigilance, caution, consciousness and awareness of responsibility from the Arab masses in Syria. It also calls upon all the Arabs to assume their responsibilities by supporting Syria.

Al-Kasm concluded his review of current developments by saying: Syria--people, party, government and National Progressive Front--is completely ready to face all possibilities. It has formulated its integral strategy and, presently, possesses the effective power to strike at the enemy in any field of clashes. It also possesses a great international asset in the support of friendly states and socialist bloc countries, headed by the USSR, the loyal friend of Syria and the Arab nation.

During this session the defense minister explained all the details pertaining to the military situation of the Syrian Armed Forces in all their positions and explained the precise measures which had been taken to support the confrontation line with the enemy. He said that Syria's military position has all the necessary means of power to crush any aggression.

After this review the Cabinet discussed everything relating to the current developments in the area, analyzed events from all angles and appraised the various measures which had been taken. The Cabinet also approved several measures required by the current circumstances on the domestic, Arab and international levels to counter the U.S.-Israeli challenge to Syria's Arab role and stand in defending the Palestinian revolution and bolstering the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation.

LEBANON'S FRANJIYAH VOICES SUPPORT FOR SYRIA

JN111258 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] Damascus--At 1330 today His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Robert Franjiyah, who conveyed to the president greetings from his father, His Excellency [former Lebanese] President Sulayman Franjiyah, and his full support for Syria's stand in confronting Israel's challenges and provocations. The conversation dealt with developments in Lebanon, the stands of the various Lebanese sides and the general situation in the Arab region. At the end of the meeting President Hafiz al-Asad asked Robert Franjiyah to convey his greetings and appreciation to His Excellency Salayman Franjiyah.

MEDIA ATTACK ISRAELI, U.S. LEBANON STANDS

9 May ATH-THAWRAH

JN091028 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 May 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Confrontation of the Forces of Aggression Is the Road to the Protection of the Pan-Arab Existence," ATH-THAWRAH says: Syria's firm stand in confronting the Israeli threats and the U.S. schemes in the area is fully supported by the Arab masses, which find in this stand an expression of their will, an embodiment of their stands and struggle and a response to their aspirations to defeat the forces of aggression and conspiracy. These forces are intensifying their onslaught at this time to liquidate the Arab cause and strike at the Arab masses' struggle. That is why feverish campaigns against Syria are escalating and imperialism and Zionism are using all their poisonous weapons to harm Syria's steadfastness and make it kneel. They are doing so through the conspiracies of the agent reactionary forces and the pressures and the threats of carrying out military aggression.

The parties to the conspiracy are surrounding the area with military bases, linking agent regimes within a suspect military pact to strike at the Arab liberation movement and abort the masses' struggle. They believe that Syria's firm stand and the trend for liberation that it is championing throughout the entire Arab homeland pose a threat to U.S. and Israeli schemes and thus pose a real threat to imperialist schemes in the area, particularly after the exposure of the imperialist-Zionist conspiratorial objectives in Lebanon and the role of the gangs--agents of the United States and Israel--in implementing their schemes to Zionize Lebanon, partition it, legalize sectarian strife among its sons and deal a blow to the Palestinian revolution that will pave the way for the liquidation of the cause.

Success of the conspiracy in Lebanon would mean containment of the major force and the solid base of steafastness in Syria since it represents the pan-Arab vanguard role and a commitment to the protection of Lebanon's Arab character and the Palestinian revolution and its masses.

If the latest developments have confirmed the soundness of Syria's stand, its analysis of the events, its accurate judgment and its confidence in the Arab masses who are rallying round the banner of struggle that Syria is raising to defend pan-Arab existence, they also have revealed the dimensions and objectives of the enemy conspiracy.

This dictates that the Arab masses and their steadfast forces rise to the level of the existing challenges, work seriously and decisively for consolidating the positions of steadfastness and confrontation, provide the requisites for foiling the conspiracy, confront the imperialist-Israeli belligerence in the area and repulse the forces of aggression and conspiracy and their agent tools because they constitute the real danger to the Arab nation, the region and the entire Arab future.

Under the headline "What Peace Are They Talking About?" ATH-THAWRAH also says: The anger of Begin and his military commanders has not yet calmed down. They have been issuing threats from the time news reports mentioned the presence of surface-to-air missiles to protect the presence of our forces which are operating as part of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon.

Since the day Israeli planes carried out their premeditated aggression to escalate tension in Lebanon and reignite the sectarian strife there and since the day Syria's response came to confirm to the enemy and to those who are behind him that we are persevering in our efforts with our brothers in the fraternal country to achieve national accord, save Lebanon from its tribulation, block the road to Israel's aggression and conspiracies against Lebanon, and protect Lebanon's Arab character and stability, the clamor raised by the Zionist entity and the White House masters has not abated despite their claims that world peace is threatened. The Washington policymakers and the Zionist aggressors have been relentlessly trying to convince all those who talk to them or with whom they talk that they are anxious for peace. The Washington policymakers and the Tel Aviv criminals, however, forgot that they can deceive no one. They ignore all the destruction brought about in southern Lebanon by the Israeli artillery, planes and tanks and the scores of innocent victims who are falling daily. They do not consider this a violation of the security of others or a threat to peace.

The aggressors are Zionists and the weapons they use come from the United States. Despite all this, the leaders of these Zionist aggressors and the Washington policymakers continue to claim that they are protecting peace in the area and are working to prevent the eruption of another war in the area.

We realize that the deceivers are carrying out their deception; they, however, are mistaken if they believe they can deceive international public opinion, particularly those who have rights, and prevent them from defending their homeland and their just cause. They are also greatly mistaken if they believe that the support they are getting from some of the agents will exonerate them from the need to settle accounts for their infamous acts.

9 May Radio Comment

JN091421 Damsacus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 May 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yesterday Israeli rulers resumed the escalation of the provocation campaign they began a few days ago. They urged military men like Mordekhay Tzipori, deputy war minister, to participate in making statements from which the smell of threats can be detected along with provocation and hints of aggression.

Western newspapers and media instruments, especially in the United States, are contributing in creating the impression that the situation in the Middle East is on the brink of a great explosion. U.S. officials are playing no small part in the artifical escalation of tension. They are making successive statements about the area, describing the situation as very serious and deliberately ignoring the role, threats and hints of war and aggression of the Israeli leaders. These U.S. officials are putting themselves forward as mediators, seekers of good and advocates of peace, acting as though what Israel does is not related to them, their designs and their aspirations.

What is all this commotion about, and why all this talk about the danger of war? They say in Tel Aviv and Washington that it is due to the transportation of Syrian surface-to-air missiles to the midst of Lebanon to defend the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in Lebanon against the attacks of the Israeli Air Force, which is violating Lebanese skies nonstop and attacking the Lebanese and Palestinians.

Lebanon is an independent Arab country and a member of the United Nations. It is not Israeli territory, nor is it territory controlled by Israel, an Israeli settlement, nor a country under an Israeli or U.S. mandate. It is an obvious fact that Israel is not entitled to interfere in Lebanon's affairs and to decide who should be present or not present on Lebanese land. Another obvious fact is that Israel is not entitled to violate the sanctity of Lebanese land, air and waters, let alone commit crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Did the missiles of which they speak precede Israel's attack on two ADF helicopters inside Lebanese airspace, or did they follow that attack? Why should missiles of a defensive nature be the cause of a serious situation, as U.S. officials claim, while the Israeli attacks against Lebanon, the Palestinians and the ADF are not considered responsible for a serious situation in the area, if such a situation has actually arisen?

It is Israel which is occupying Arab land, ignoring the national rights of the Palestinian people, violating the principles of the UN Charter and the UN resolutions on the Middle East. It does all this with U.S. encouragement and coordination. If there is any element which has put the area under the continued burden and danger of war, not just since a few days ago, it is the aggressive policy of Israel, which is supported by the U.S. This policy is based on aggression and expansion, threats of force and its use and contempt for international laws, charters and conventions.

Those in Tel Aviv and Washington think that directing threats at Syria will change their failure to achieve their goal into success, will pave the way for imposing surrender and subjugation on Syria and the Arab nation and will frighten Syria into abandoning the nation's cause and into going back on its principled stand and its determination to drive back the imperialist, Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation. They are greatly mistaken. Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has proved in the past and is still proving that it is not afraid of threats, does not withdraw before them, is not softened by enticements, does not deal with others under pressure and does not abandon the nationalist, pan-Arab stand whatever the sacrifices may be.

Syria's determination to defend itself, its armed forces and the Arab nation's cause and rights is firm and will never decrease. This determination was emphasized by President Hafiz al-Asad when he said: The Syrian Arab people and their armed forces are determined to confront in the appropriate manner any aggressive action which Israel intends to undertake. This determination was also affirmed by the Progressive National Front when it said in its statement to the people and the nation's masses: Our courageous army and fearless people are prepared, under the leadership of Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, to face all possibilities and to repulse them forever. Anyone who wishes to talk to Syria must leave his stick at home. Syria is not afraid, does not withdraw and does not bargain. It knows the sources of its strength and knows the many trump cards in its hands. It also knows that those who may gamble by resorting to aggression will pay very dearly for this.

10 May TISHRIN

JN100707 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 May 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Habib's Visit and the U.S. Policy" TISHRIN says: Philip Habib, the envoy of the U.S. administration, arrived in Damascus yesterday.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, began talks with him yesterday. The talks between the two are expected to resume today. This visit takes place at the request of the U.S. administration in the wake of the serious escalation of the situation in the area Israel has brought about.

Syria does not have two policies: a declared one and a secret one. Syria does not make two kinds of statement: one for public consumption and the other for the backstages of diplomacy.

One of the traditons of foreign policy, the rules of which have been established by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, is that this policy should not have two faces and that Syria should not have two stands. TISHRIN says: What Philip Habib hears about Syria's stands, its trends and objectives, is the same that His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has reiterated on many occasions. This principled stand, which remains committed to the Arabs' rights, dignity and freedom, is not subject to change or alteration. There is no bargaining or discussion on the issue of rejecting occupation, the issue of adhering to the Palestinian Arab people's national rights and the issue of the freedom, independence and sovereignty of the Arab territories, waters and airspace.

After reviewing Syria's stand on a just and comprehensive peace, the Zionist threat that surrounds the Arab nation, TISHRIN says: No excuses can be accepted exonerating the United States from its responsibility concerning Israel's acts or denying U.S. capability to influence the stands of the Tel Aviv rulers. It is no secret that Israel is the one which depends on the United States and not the other way round. It is also no secret that had it not been for U.S. military, political, financial and economic support, Israel would not have been able to carry out the aggression, continue its occupation and defy the United Nations, the international laws and charters. Israel would not have been able to remain on one inch of the occupied Arab territories either.

TISHRIN adds: The United States cannot control the Arab homeland through Israel. No matter how skillful Washington is in maneuvering and applying pressures, it will not succeed in convincing the Arabs that Israel [instead of the U.S.] is the one which occupies Arab territories, does not recognize the Palestinian Arab people's national rights and tries to interfere in Lebanon's affairs, or that Israel does not constitute a threat to the Arab nation.

The difficulties that the United States is facing in the area are the result of the belief that Israel is capable of subjugating the area in the U.S. interest. Previous experiments have failed and all similar experiments will fail too.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria and the Arabs, because they love peace, are determined to reject subservience and capitulation. They are determined to offer sacrifices for the sake of freedom, independence, the liberation of the occupied territories and regaining usurped rights. The paper adds: The belligerent threats Begin and the other Israeli politicians and military men are making do not scare anyone. These threats cannot change the situation in the Middle East. On the contrary, they might speed the fruition of circumstances and the collapse of what the U.S. policy considers an achievement over the past 10 years.

What does not need to be proved is that the Middle East is not an area which is isolated from our world. It is not an island that is separated from the other parts of the world. What takes place in it interests the entire world, affects international relations either positively or negatively and is directly connected to matters linked to peace, security and international balance.

TISHRIN concludes: Observing silence on Israel's measures in this very sensitive area is a big responsibility, particularly to those who have the power to check the adventurers who might bring the area and the world to a situation which is not desired by those who are concerned with keeping dialogue and discussion as the rule in international relations.

Placing the aggressor and the victim on the same footing is wrong, as is the request to the victim to offer concessions to settle his affairs with the aggressor.

One of the firm facts which should be realized by all those who are interested in Middle East affairs is that the area will not be vanquished and will not capitulate and that the logic of threats is a rejected one and will not benefit those who practice it.

10 May Radio Comment

JN101453 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 May 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The sides of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary front continue to play their roles against Syria. Some of these sides take shots at the Syrian role in Lebanon not only to foil detente, which had made progress under Syria's supervision, but also to give the opportunity to other sides in the same front to say that Syria is a quarter in the conflict in Lebanon. While all this is taking place, the sides of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary front try, each on its own, to open battles with Syria and to give the impression that the individual battles are separate from the battles of the other sides so that each of these battles will be a cover for the others and in the hope that when Syria is engaged with repulsing a certain attack, it will be distracted from repulsing a previous attack or one that is subsequently arranged.

Those speaking of internationalization in Lebanon pretend to forget the way in which Israel obstructed the UNIFIL forces in the south from helping the legitimate Lebanese authorities spread their control over the south by introducing the Lebanese army into an area occupied by Israel behind a mask called Sa'd Haddad. Why? Because the decision to send the Lebanese Army to the south was agreed upon at the Damascus summit between Presidents Ilyas Sarkis and Hafiz al-Asad. The enemies of Lebanon then deliberately covered up the scandal of Israel's challenge of the United Nations by provokinga battle in Zahlah and then in Beirut. So, Israel had the opportunity to use the pretext of protecting some of the Lebanese in order to cover up its related crime of massacring other Lebanese and violating Lebanese territories, territorial waters and airspace.

When Syria moved to a position that would enable it to preserve the sanctity of Lebanese airspace and repulse Israeli air attacks, all the sides of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance were roused. As-Sadat called for an Arab summit to deal with the situation. The United States expressed anxiety and sent an envoy to find out facts. The Phalangists continued their role in carrying out battles instead of having Israel do so. Following the arrival of the U.S. delegate in Beirut, they started taking shots at the achievements of the Lebanese national accord which were made under Syria's patronage.

Perhaps the sides of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary front have the illusion that by means of these open, successive battles against Syria, they can divert Syria from its main, basic and firm concern, which is to repulse the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught on the main battlefield: the battle to Arabize surrender. This illusion will fall sooner or later. This is what the conspirators should know, especially the one who is investigating facts which are already known in the area. Peripheral battles will not divert Syria from confronting the main battle. Syria will prevent the Arabization of the Camp David course, whatever the size the marginal battles which are provoked to divert Syria may be.

Syria is competent enough to achieve this pan-Arab task by means of strategic balance with the nation's enemy, which Syria has struggled to achieve. It is also made competent by means of the Arab support, which was expressed by the stands of some Arab leaders, and especially by means of mass Arab support.

This mass Arab support reached its climax in the Jerusalem demonstration held the day before yesterday. This demonstration was organized by our people to confront the guns of occupation.

The illusions of the dreamers on weakening the stand of Syria or on confusing it will fall. There is no place for guessing what Damascus wants. Damascus has a declared policy, a policy that expresses the aspirations of the Arab masses to defeat the U.S. imperialist designs, which aim at enforcing Zionist control over the Arab homeland. Damascus has no other policy but this one. This is what any fact-finding delegate can realize, even without meeting with any Syrian official, especially since this broad line of Syria's strategy is enough to indicate Syria's stand toward any issue arising from it.

In this respect, Damascus is not willing to discuss with anyone any issues pertaining to sovereignty and the right to self-defense against the Zionist onslaught because Syria is very sure that it is leading the pan-Arab battle at the same time that it is confronting the marginal battles, which are provoked to divert Syria from the central battle, the battle to prevent the Arabization of the surrender course.

11 May TISHRIN

JN110730 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Green light and the Red Light" TISHRIN comments today on the New York TIMES report that the U.S. administration has given Israel the green light to eliminate the danger of the Syrian missiles. The Israeli Government argued about the truth of this report and claimed that it has not asked for and has not been given the green light because it is a sovereign state and does not need any authorization to take decisions connected to its security.

Regardless of the truth of the New York TIMES report or the Israeli denial, both call for vigilance and alertness and foretell that the topic of igniting a limited or an unlimited fire in the area is among those that the Washington and Tel Aviv rulers are discussing. If the report that the United States had given Israel the green light to attack the Arab Deterrent Forces or Syria proves to the true, the United States would be committing a great, historic error that would place the entire area in jeopardy and make all the positions and friendships of the United States in the area subject to doubt and liable to inevitable dangers. No one can guarantee that oil areas, oil production and transport and marketing operations would not be affected if Israel ignites the fire of aggression against Syria, Lebanon and the Arabs. Had the officials in Washington thought about the various wars of aggression that Israel has launched with their support and that of other imperialist countries, they would have found that these wars were not beneficial to the United States and to its relations with the Arab countries. An Israeli military adventure, backed by the United States at this time, might be costly to all parties, particularly to the aggressors and to those who back them.

TISHRIN adds: Despite the fact that the news and secrets which have been published about the wars of aggression that Israel has launched against the Arabs have confirmed that the Tel Aviv rulers waged the wars of aggressions only after obtaining the green light from Washington, Paris, and London in 1948, 1956 and 1967, talk by the Israeli Government that it does not need any authorization to make decisions that are connected to its security must be viewed correctly as one of the factors which raise doubts, casue concern and call for alertness, vigilance and preparedness for all untoward eventualities.

The paper says: What causes us to be more alert is that the Israeli leaders are escalating their threats, provocations and challenges and accompany them with overt military preparations.

Yesterday evening Begin poured oil on the fire of threats when he allowed the Zionist information media to broadcast the following news: The prime minister and minister of defense, Menahem Begin, has stated that, if the efforts the United States is exerting with Syria do not succeed in removing the Syrian missiles from Lebanon, instructions will be given to the Israeli Air Force to carry out its task. If we take this statements seriously, this means that the world must act very quickly to sever the hands of the aggressors before they can ignite a war whose consequences and extent cannot be predicted. Whether the green light for the aggression is given by Washington or by Tel Aviv itself, all those who are concerned with peace, security and international law and all international organizations must shoulder their responsibilities before it becomes too late. They should light the red light before the aggressors.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: With regard to Syria, threats will not scare it, force it to retract its principled stands or to relinquish its rights, the rights of the Arab nation or make it give up its concern over a just and comprehensive peace. Syria will not capitualte to the Israeli aggressors, will not accept subservience to U.S. imperialism and will not submit to blackmail.

If Israel launches its aggression it must realize that those who weep will not be Arab mothers alone and that war that goes in a certain direction can be reversed. Israeli rulers should remember what Nahum Goldmann said in the wake of the 1967 war, "The Arabs can lose many wars but Israel can lose only one war."

Further From TISHRIN

JN110753 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria Is the More Capable" TISHRIN comments on the fabricated missiles crisis in Lebanon. The paper says: The deployment of missiles by Syria in Lebanon to protect forces which have been there for many years as part of the Arab Deterrent Forces, after Israel attacked two Syrian helicopters which were carrying supplies to Zahlah, has caused great anxiety in Washington. There have been daily statments by officials, a special envoy of President Reagan has been sent and there have been implicit and explicit threats. As for the hundreds of Israeli aggressions with all weapons, by air, land and sea against southern Lebanon and the thousands of civilians who have been killed as a result of these aggressions, they have neither moved Washington nor caused it to show the great interest it is showing these days.

What interests Washington is Israel's security. What it has turned its back to intentionally, and prevented the mere condemnation of in the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, is the security of Lebanon and that of its people and the Palestinian people who were expelled by the Israeli occupation to Lebanon. Washington is also not interested in Syria's security.

Israel's security, as has been stated by Washington on many occasions, and as the masters of the White House have stated, is the most important issue in, and the basis of, the U.S. strategy in this region.

BEGIN SAYS AIR FORCE WILL ACT IF SAM'S NOT REMOVED

TA110658 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2140 GMT 10 May 81

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, 10 May--This evening Prime Minister Begin declared that if Syria does not remove its surface-to-air missiles from Lebanon "the Israeli Air Force will be given an instruction to operate--let nobody either in Israel or abroad doubt this--and when our air force operates it achieves results."

Mr Begin made these remarks in the course of his speech in the Likud unification conference held at Binyaney Ha'uma in Jerusalem. About 2,000 delegates who participated in the conference applauded his remarks. At the end of the evening Begin was unanimously elected as the Likud's candidate for premiership.

The prime minister listed the Likud's achievements during his 4-year term as prime minister and praised Ministers Aridor, Levi, Shamir, Sharon and others for their deeds. He viewed the peace treaty with Egypt as the most important achievement of the government and again rejected Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghali's remarks in London to the effect that if a war breaks out Egypt will stand by Syria's side since its commitment to Arab countries takes precedence over its commitment in the peace treaty. "This is in total contradiction to the peace treaty and I wonder why Professor Ghali did not do his homework. I am also fully aware that President as-Sadat did not know of Ghali's remarks," Mr Begin declared.

Later Begin also took issue with the Alignment members, sharply attacking the style of their election campaign propaganda. Begin accused them of telling lies about his remarks on various issues such as the Syrian war against the Christians in Lebanon. He attacked Shim'on Peres by saying that a man who lies about the Altalen affair [in 1948 when Irgun and IDF soldiers clashed] "is not worthy of becoming Israel's prime minister."

Later the prime minister disclosed that if it transpires at the end of the elections that the Alignment and the Likud have the same number of seats (41, for instance), Begin will be the one to form the next government. "In such a case--he explained without elaborating--we will have the majority, in accord with a promise I was given by an important party in Israel."

Coalition Chairman Hayim Cofu and the heads of the Likud factions, Simha Ehrlich and Eli'ezer Shostak, also made remarks in the conference.

The charter of the unification of the Likud was voted on and unanimously upheld by the conference delegates in the course of the discussion.

CABINET MINISTERS HEAR ASSESSMENT ON LEBANON

TA101313 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Today the Cabinet ministers heard the assessment that no changes are known of regarding the Syrian deployment in Lebanon and the introduction of additional missiles. It is believed that many reports by way of Lebanon on this matter are attributable to Syrian inspiration in line with the propaganda campaign conducted during U.S. envoy Philip Habib's talks.

Correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister briefed the ministers on developments in Lebanon and the foreign minister reported on the contacts he has recently held with several countries on this issue.

The finance minister reported the results of his visit to the United States and the prime minister defined his review as very positive and optimistic.

After the meeting our correspondent asked whether encouraging reports are reaching us from Damascus about the U.S. envoy's talks and the prime minister answered: No comment.

DAVAR REPORT ON U.S. 'GREEN LIGHT' DENIED

TA100951 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0935 GMT 10 May 81

[Government Press Office release]

[Text] Jerusalem, 10 May--It was announced by the prime minister's office:

There is no foundation to the report published in the New York TIMES according to which the prime minister wrote in his message to President Reagan that the current situation is similar to the situation of the 6-day war. In the prime minister's message there is no mention or a hint at such a comparison, which is also incorrect from a factual viewpoint.

There is also no truth in the report published by the paper DAVAR this morning (10 May) to the effect that the United States gave Israel a green light for an attack on the Syrian missiles in Lebanon. The State of Israel is sovereign. We have not, nor will we ask for a green light for any action decided by the government to be necessary. In contrast, it is true that the U.S. Government and the Israeli Government share a common position that the status quo ante should be restored in Lebanon.

SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON LEBANESE, GERMAN ISSUES

TA090928 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] The Syrian activity in Lebanon and the German incident were the two major topics preoccupying us the past week. The guest of "Weekly Newsreel" is Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the interview he granted to Arye Golan touched on these two topics. On relations with Germany, Shamir says it is possible that good may come out of evil and it may be good that things were made public. On the situation in Lebanon he says it is difficult to be optimistic when dealing with a country such as Syria and it is therefore uncertain whether the U.S. attempts to convince the Syrians to remove the missiles will prove fruitful:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I am not sure about this but I would like to believe that the U.S. effort will be fruitful. Like all of us I would prefer that this crisis be resolved through peaceful means. If Philip Habib's mediation serves this purpose we will all be content.

[Question] Why are you not sure he will succeed?

[Answer] Well, this is uncertain. This, after all, primarily depends on the Syrian stance. They have to remove these missiles. If they agree to this, this will signify the beginning of a solution to this crisis. If they do not agree, Philip Habib will not have gained a thing.

[Question] It is said that Philip Habib in fact has a comprehensive plan regarding the Lebanon issue, the central part of which is mutual restriction of both Israeli and Syrian involvement in Lebanon. Will Israel be prepared, under certain conditions, to agree to such a restriction?

[Answer] We have not heard a thing on this. Nobody told us of such a plan or such ideas. This does not appear realistic to me but it should be heard out.

[Question] Would you say that Philip Habib stands a good chance of persuading the Syrians to pull back the missiles from the Lebanese Al-Biqa' of their own free will?

[Answer] It is hard to talk of a chance. As far as we know, so far this question can only be answered in the negative. At any rate, he will try to do so and therefore we shall wait and see.

[Question] You do not sound optimistic on this matter, Mr Foreign Minister.

[Answer] It is hard to be optimistic when discussing relations and contacts with Syria whose stiff position is well known to all.

[Question] At the end of last week U.S. officials spoke of the possibility of a limited military confrontation between Israel and Syria on the missiles issue, a necessary Israeli action in the event of the failure of diplomatic efforts. Can it be restricted and can Israel be completely sure that it will not develop into a real war between Syria and Israel?

[Answer] Well, there are various plans, various lines of operations, various considerations and we are prepared for various alternatives or possibilities. However, I do not think it would serve our purposes to announce in advance what our plans and assessments are.

[Question] However, in case the missiles are not pulled back through peaceful means, our plans also include the military option, do they not?

[Answer] It is clear that all possibilities should be taken into account.

[Question] Sir, what is the reasonable duration of time needed for Israel to decide that the diplomatic efforts have failed?

[Answer] In his answer to the U.S. President the prime minister did not refer to any time limits. However, he emphasized it should be taken into consideration that the length of Israel's waiting period is limited. The time should be as short as possible.

[Question] Are we talking in terms of days, weeks or months?

[Answer] I would not like to elaborate.

[Question] In the meantime, while Philip Habib is in Damascus, Syrian Army movements have begun in Lebanon. Does Israel know of this? How does Israel regard these reports?

[Answer] I assume this is known to Israel. We closely follow all events on the northern border just as we do regarding all of Israel's borders. We have assessments and Israel will act accordingly.

[Question] Would you say that the missile crisis in Lebanon was inevitable, as far as Israel is concerned?

[Answer] We did not cause this crisis, just as we are not responsible for the development of this dangerous situation in Lebanon, with Syria persistently pursuing its tendencies of liquidating the Christian public there. These two elements harm Israel's interests.

[Question] You know that Ya'aqov Meridor, who is currently an important Herut Movement member, said in a press interview at the end of the week that we have no moral commitment to the Christians in Lebanon, that we only have a commitment to Israel's security?

[Answer] I read the interview. I do not think this was his precise meaning. He wanted to say that our involvement in Lebanon and our defense of the Christians there is in Israel's and the Christians' identical interests. In this he has not deviated from the government's accepted information.

[Question] Namely, you also believe that we have a commitment toward the Christians throughout Lebanon.

[Answer] He said that we will defend the Christian community in Lebanon against the danger of annihilation.

[Question] On another issue, the past week was a very stormy one in relations between Israel and Germany. How would you define the relations between the two countries now?

[Answer] Look, nothing has happened regarding the relations per se. A declaration was made by the German chancellor that shocked everybody in Israel and it is absolutely natural that this declaration resulted in the reaction in the communications media both in Israel and abroad. The reactions were sharp...

[Golan--interrupts] Not too sharp, perhaps?

[Answer] I would not say so. The reactions were sharp to the extent that the announcement which triggered them was shocking. The reactions induced counterreactions and I think this should be viewed as the end of this incident. I do not think there is an interest in infinitely pursuing this matter. I hope some good will emerge from these verbal exchanges, since, once the storm is past, there may be a better understanding both in West Germany and all of Europe of the dangers inherent in the European countries' Middle East policy, especially the dangers resulting from the race to sell arms to Arab countries, which could lead to a terrible explosion in the Middle East. There are already signs of second thoughts in certain European circles and I hope that some good will indeed come from this fierce incident.

[Golan] Mr Foreign Minister, thank you very much. [end recording]

BEGIN EXPECTED TO APPEAL TO SYRIAN PRESIDENT

TA101934 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 May 81

[Report by political correspondent Elimelekh Ram--live]

[Text] The prime minister's personal appeal to the Syrian president, to be delivered tomorrow from the Knesset podium, should be regarded as yet another Israeli attempt to solve the continuing crisis in diplomatic ways. Philip Habib's mission has probably failed.

The Cabinet ministers, as one of them told me today, are not deluding themselves and most of them have now formed the impression that there will be no other alternative but to forsake the diplomatic way. If there is a military confrontation, the ministers said, a comprehensive war will probably not break out but such a possibility should nevertheless be taken into account. The Israeli Cabinet will, in the next few days, have to find answers to several central questions before it decides on its future steps, if indeed Habib's mission fails--as is expected.

Is there no other way out but through a military confrontation? And can no way be found to solve the crisis by making a certain move toward Syria without this harming Israel's security, and despite the unequivocal declarations that Israel will not accept anything less than an arrangement whereby the status quo is reinstituted and the Syrian missiles stationed in Lebanese territory are removed?

Replying to the criticism that has recently appeared in the press on the way the Cabinet has been handling the crisis, a senior minister said today: There is nothing easier than to sit at a desk and write that everything is possible, including solving the crisis through peaceful measures; but to decide, take action and assume responsibility for the results--this is a totally different matter.

CORRESPONDENT SURVEYS SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON

TA100722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Since the outbreak of the missile crisis in Lebanon the number of missile batteries stationed there by the Syrians has not changed. Three batteries are still positioned south of Zahlah and no addition has been made in this sector. About 25 km southeast of Zahlah there are two SAM-3 batteries and one SAM-2 battery. The Syrians have also introduced one armored brigade into this region.

The Syrian Army is in possession of a large number of such missiles that are used against ground targets. Reference is of course to the [name indistinct] missiles that were reported to have been fired toward the Christians' stronghold in Juniyah yesterday. Our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, has arrived in the studio to explain the process of the Syrian Army's armament:

Before we survey the Syrian Army let me open with a few words about the missiles the Syrians used against the port city of Juniyah. If the reports by the Phalangists' radio in Beirut are accurate, the missiles used were of the [name indistinct] type. These are surface-to-surface missiles for ranges of several kilometers only, but their explosive heads are big and they cause heavy damage and fires and have a certain psychological effect.

Regarding the Syrian Army, following the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Eygpt this army began to undergo a series of offensive-tinted changes. The number of commando units has grown by a factor of two at least. The number of helicopters carrying attack troops has risen accordingly. The number of armored formations has doubled and the Syrian Army has absorbed hundreds of tanks of the T-72 and the T-62 types. The Syrian Army now numbers 225,000 soldiers in 4 armored divisions, 3 motorized infantry divisions, 9 infantry brigades, 4 motorized brigades, 8 armored brigades and 17 commando battalions. The Syrians have 500 fighters and bombers, 3,300 tanks and more than 2,300 artillery pieces. They are equipped with helicopters and they have 17 missile ships of the Osa and Komar types as well as several torpedo boats, minesweepers and frigates.

The Syrian force in Lebanon is made up of 2 armored brigades, 2 motorized infantry brigades and 10 commando battalions. In total there are about 25,000 to 30,000 Syrian soldiers spread in the Beirut area, the Al-Biqa' area, north of the (Qarun), in Tripoli and in the Al-Matn region. Most of the commando battalions, some of which were brought from northern Syria, surround Zahlah and are preoccupied with attempts to take control of the Sannin mountain. In Lebanon, the Syrians have 300 tanks and a similar number of artillery pieces.

On the Golan Heights line there are three Syrian brigades now. The rest of the force is concentrated in the Damascus area, including the force slated to defend the regime and the general headquarters' brigade.

At the end of the week, as we heard, the Syrians moved an armored brigade southward toward the Lebanese border as well as several additonal SAM-2 and SAM-3 missile batteries.

It is now clear at least that reports on Syrian reinforcement heard at the end of the week were inaccurate and it may be the Syrians who disseminated these reports.

LIBYA

COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S. 'CAMPAIGN' AGAINST LIBYA

LD090842 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 9 May 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The American imperialist campaign against the Libyan Arab people, with the support of Arab reaction, and the timing of this campaign are all part of an imperialist-reactionary plan to insure implementation of the imperialist designs in Africa and the Arab area. This campaign is being waged against the Jamahiriyah under the pretext of an alleged Libyan threat. However, the fact of the matter is totally different: The imperialist campaign has other dimensions which are currently being coordinated against the Jamahiriyah, but which cover the entire Arab region. Briefly, the dimensions of this campaign can be stated as follows:

1. To beseige the Great 1 September Revolution politically and militarily through military alliance with the imperialist-Zionist-Arab reactionary countries. This proves a premeditated intention to launch a military operation against the Jamahiriyah people, probably using Arab reaction as one of its tools.

2. To counter the call by the brother commander for other Arab progressive forces to join the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. This call has prompted King Hassan II of Morocco to send out over 90 envoys to countries throughout the world to express his fears of the effects of the Great 1 September Revolution and its call for toppling his agent reactionary regime.

These, in brief, are some of the conclusions one can come up with from the present American campaign against the Libyan Arab people and its decision to close down the Libyan People's Arab Bureau in Washington. The U.S. State Department has summoned the brother head of the bureau and asked him and his colleagues to leave the United States within 5 days.

The U.S. decision has occupied a prominent place amid the most important international issues of the hour. The observers believe that the decision by the U.S. administration to close down the people's bureau was prompted by the bold and effective role played by the Jamahiriyah in exposing American imperialism and its agents in the Arab area as well as in the world at large. They also believe that it is prompted by the Jamahiriyah's aid and support for liberation revolutions in the world, particularly in the Arab homeland and Africa.

Circles in Washington have pointed out that Reagan's decision was adopted a week after the visit of the commander of the revolution to Moscow.

The American-Arab reactionary plot has thus been exposed. Hence, Arab peoples everywhere are called upon to abort the imperialist plot against the Arab nation represented in the Great 1 September Revolution, the great bastion of the Arabs which fights against imperialism and its designs. The Arab people are also called upon, at the present time, to expose all the corrupt regimes and to revolt against them so that they may collapse and so that all the imperialist designs which are implemented with the support of Arab and other reactionary elements may topple.

Thus the United States proves to the world that it adopts aggressive designs not only against the liberation movements but also against all the progressive countries which do not pursue a policy compatible with its terrorist policy. Otherwise, why should the Reagan administration decide to close down the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Washington believing that, by doing so, it can divide the Arab peoples from the American people?

The Libyan Arab people, contrary to what the U.S. administration believes, establishes its relations with the peoples and not with government regimes. The Jamahiriyah has no diplomatic mission in the United States for the Reagan administration to expel. There is only a people's committee, which is there to bolster relations between the two peoples.

SUDAN

REPORTS OF ANTIREGIME SENTIMENT IN LIBYA CITED

JN091553 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 9 May (SUNA)--Arrivals from Tripoli have told SUNA that a state of tension and dissatisfaction prevails among the Libyan masses, particularly following the increase in the number of Libyan sons reported missing or killed due to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's adventure in Chad. The arrivals say that it is common for a Libyan family to be informed about a son missing in Chad. This situation has led to escalated anger toward and complaints against the regime. The Libyan citizens who did not voice hostility before are now ready to participate in any action against the regime of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

They say that the organs of the regime no longer talk about the role of the Libyan Army in Chad due to the deterioration of morale among the Libyans. They add that Al-Qadhdhafi's attempt to mobilize the people against Sudan has failed. This is clearly shown in the good relations between the Libyans and Sudanese people working in Libya. The arrivals have stressed that the failure of the regime in convincing the people to join the army and the people's evasion of compulsory service has led the regime to resort to conscripting 15-year-old girls, taking them from schools and placing them in training camps. This behavior has caused a great shock among the conservative Libyan people. Consequently, a large number of fathers have prevented their daughters from going to school.

FRONT DENOUNCES GOUKOUNI OUEDDEI STATEMENT

JN101843 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 10 May (SUNA)--The Western Chadian Front denounced today the statements made by Goukouni Oueddei calling for the disarmament of different warring factions and their evacuation from the capital Ndjamena. A communique of the WCF denied legitimacy of Goukouni for taking any action in the same time troops of Libyan intervention are still present on the Chadian lands. It went on to say that even the implementation of Lagos agreements could not occur before the complete withdrawal of the Libyan troops from Chad. Former health minister in Goukouni government who has announced his resignation to SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) last week is the leader of the said front.

CHADIAN FRONT CALLS FOR OAU CONFERENCE ON CHAD

JN101839 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 10 May (SUNA)--A Chadian major front has called for a national conference to be held under the patronage of Organization of African Unity OAU to explore the proper ways for liberation of Chad from the Libyan occupation.

Frolinat, first army front of Internal Minister Mohamed Abba Siddick also called on all Chadians to forget the past and embrace themselves for liberation of Chad, construction of the war-ravaged country and realization of unity.

In a statement issued here today the front commended Sudan's stance towards the Chadian cause, the stand that prevailed in the several conferences held on the Chadian question. The statement severely attacked on Libya and accused it of trying to divide Chad and annexing some parts of the country's territories. The statement also denounced the practises by the Chadian Foreign Minister Ahmat Acyl and described him as an agent serving for the interest of foreign force.

CHAD

GOUKOUNI OUEDDEI AGREES TO NEUTRAL FORCE

AB081420 Paris AFP in French 1352 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Yaounde, 8 May (AFP)--In Ngaundere (north Cameroon) on Friday, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad, [GUNT] has agreed to the sending of neutral forces to his country and to the immediate demilitarization of Ndjamena.

In a statement made to Radio Cameroon on Friday following a working session with President Ahidjo of Cameroon, Goukouni Oueddei explained that if Africa insists on sending a force, we have agreed to it in advance; we have even forwarded the names of some countries which must provide the elements of this force.

On the other hand, the Chadian leader explained that all the armed forces belonging to the various factions will be withdrawn today or tomorrow from Ndjamena. In this way, the Chadian capital will be demilitarized.

Mr Goukouni Oueddei recalled that his government wants to unify the Chadian Army and this is what is being done on the field. Already, two groups of 2,400 men have been set up and placed under the command of the GUNT, he added.

The president of GUNT also specified that the disarming of civilians will soon take place. Finally, the Chadian leader disclosed that if free elections have not as yet been organized, as required by the Lagos accord, it is due to the war, which lasted 9 months, but, he added, we are now on the right road to implementing the Lagos accord to the letter.

Observers' Reaction

AB100700 Paris AFP in French 1307 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Yaounde, 9 May (AFP)--The proposal to send a neutral force to Chad, which Mr Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government in Chad (GUNT), supported in Ngaoundere (northern Cameroon) on Friday, has given rise to questions from observers in Yaounde.

It is not likely that such a force will be set up and sent to Chad before the next OAU summit, scheduled to take place in Nairobi in June. In voting for or against the sending of these forces, African leaders will take into consideration the situation in Chad, and particularly in Ndjamena, observers note. In effect, if the Chadian leader has given his consent in advance for the sending of this force to Ndjamena, he has examined the role that it is likely to play. According to Mr Goukouni, the efforts being made by his government to normalize the situation in Ndjamena should result in the demilitarization of the Chadian capital, as provided for in the Lagos accords signed in 1979. In declaring his readiness to receive the neutral forces if Africa insists, the head of the GUNT seems to consider that such a presence would not have any justification, observers state.

The decision to send a neutral force to Chad was made during the Lagos conference in 1980, it is recalled. An OAU minisummit which was to have discussed the setting up of this force should have met in Lagos in April, but was cancelled because of the absence of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

MALI

NIGERIA'S SHAGARI POSTPONES VISIT, NO REASON GIVEN

AB081520 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] An official statement just received says that at the request of the Federal Government of Nigeria, the official visit of President Shehu Shagari, which was scheduled to take place 11 May through 13 May, has been postponed to a later date.

NIGERIA

PETITION AGAINST KADUNA GOVERNOR READ TO ASSEMBLY

AB082021 Paris AFP in French 1828 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Lagos, 8 May (AFP)--A 10-point petition denouncing the notorious behavior of the governor of Kaduna State (northern Nigeria), Mr Balabare Musa, was read Thursday before the State House of Assembly by the leader of the majority group (Nigerian People's Party, NPN). The document was signed by 70 legislators--68 from the NPN, including the speaker of the house; one from the People's Redemption Party (PRP); and one from the Great Nigerian People's Party (GNPP).

The charges leveled against the governor include issuing of unconstitutional decrees, dismissal of the state's principal civil servants, unlawful appointments and illegal transfer of public funds.

According to the petitioners, Mr Musa has specifically shifted funds for the development of new industries without consulting the House of Assembly. The petitioners are demanding that a court action be taken against Mr Musa as well as his dismissal.

Kaduna Speaker, Others' Views

AB081917 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 May 81

[Excerpts] The speaker, Kaduna State House of Assembly, Alhaji Maman Abubakar Dan Musa, says the proposed meeting of legislature leaders on the political stalemate in the state has been overtaken by events. A statement signed on behalf of the speaker today said the house had again resolved to solve its problems with the executive constitutionally. The statement added that the assembly did not consider the meeting necessary and [words indistinct] scheduled to attend the meeting to stay at home. By doing so, the statement said, they would be respecting the constitution they have sworn to protect.

And at the Assembly today, the speaker stopped a move by the House to condemn other statesmen [words indistinct] what the members described as interference in the affairs of the state. A member, Alhaji Ali, commissioner, had during the motion of adjournment called on other legislators to stop interferring in the affairs of the state, particularly in the proposed impeachment of Governor Balabare musa.

Still on the impeachment move: The deputy governor of Sokoto state, Dr Garba Nadama, said such a step should only be embarked upon as a last resort. At a news conference in Skoto, the deputy governor said the only way the legislature could get rid of a governor, who treated the constitution with contempt, was to adduce enough evidence to warrant his impeachment.

Yesterday the Kaduna legislature presented a notice and charges of the impeachment signed by more than two thirds of the house to Governor Balabare Musa. The governor, who could not comment, however, said if the impeachment should (?finally) be carried out it would have some repercussions.

ANGOLA

MINISTER ALLUDES TO OIL REPRISALS AGAINST U.S.

AB090954 Paris AFP in French 0852 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Luanda, 9 May (AFP)--On the question of possible reprisals against American oil companies if the Reagan administration adopts an aggressive attitude towards the country, the Angolan oil minister said that oil is a weapon and we are determined to use it in defending our interests. The question of possible reprisals, it will be recalled, was recently raised in an interview given to the Washington POST by the Angolan minister of foreign affairs, Mr Paulo Jorge. The largest part of Angolan oil production is ensured by Gulf Oil in the Cabinda enclave.

It is a question of national pride. We cannot continue to sell oil and have relations with a country which is our enemy, Mr Morais said during a press conference. He, however, considered that the American administration's stand was strongly criticized in the United States itself and that the lobby of oil companies in Washington had obtained positive results, especially the refusal by a subcommission to repeal the Clark Amendment which forbids any aid to organizations opposed to the Angolan Government.

OIL SEMINAR EXAMINES AREA DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Producer Group Proposed

AB081434 Paris AFP in French 1252 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Luanda, 8 May (AFP)--The Angolan petroleum minister, Mr Jorge de Morais, proposed on Friday the creation of an association of oil producing states in the African Gulf (West African countries). The aim of this association would not be to fix prices or to compete with existing organizations. Its objective could be to exchange information on petroleum exploration and survey common projects, such as Angola and Congo are currently doing, the minister stated at the seminar on petroleum and development taking place in Luanda.

We must promote the North-South dialogue in the field of energy, Mr Morais added.

He also called on south African countries to particpate in a project to increase oil refined in Angola. Angola would welcome more active participation of certain countries in this region in the development of the Angolan oil industry in order to acquire the necessary tool for the economic development of this part of Africa. he stated.

Angola is aware of her responsibilities toward the south African states (Zambia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique), Mr Morais stated. Angola, it would be recalled, is to produce between eight and nine million tons of oil this year, thereby holding second position, after Nigeria, among black African oil producing states. Its oil production is almost at the same level with that of Gabon.

Reserves Estimated

AB101420 Paris AFP in English 1410 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Luanda, Angola, 10 May (AFP)--Africa has significant untapped oil potential, but it is unlikely huge deposits like those of the Middle East will be found in the continent in the years to come, petroleum experts said at a seminar here. The gathering was sponsored by the Angolan Government and the Italian state energy group, ENI.

It seems probable that the oil reserves yet to be discovered in Africa are scattered among a number of small and medium-sized deposits, said Marcello Colliti of the Italian company AGIP, which is active in Africa.

The continent's proven reserves of crude were estimated at the beginning of the year at 7,500 million tons, or 8.3 per cent of the world total, enough to last for 25 years at current extraction rates. Africa produced nearly 300 tons of crude in [words indistinct] per cent of the world total.

On top of proven reserves, another 7,000 tons of oil may be found in Africa by the year 2000. To reach this level, however, exploration will have to be stepped up, said Mr Colliti and another expert, Nicolas Sarkis.

Mr Sarkis said there had been an oil rush on Africa between 1975 and 1980, but the big multinational oil companies had concentrated on negotiating exploration rights rather than on the actual exploratory drilling.

In all, just 40,000 wells have been dug in Africa and offshore since the start of the oil era in the continent, against 2.2 million in the United States and 100,000 in Latin America.

Much remains to be done in Africa, especially off the west coast, where production is expected to expand in the near future.

The experts singled out Ivory Coast, which could produce 6 million tons a year by 1985, Cameroon, 5 million tons annually by 1984, and Congo, 5 million tons next year. Angola plans to raise its production from 8 million tons this year to 15 million in 1985.

For the time being, more than 95 per cent of African oil production comes from Nigeria (one-third of the total), Libya, Algeria, Gabon, Angola and Egypt. There has been a levelling-off of production in the first four, which are members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, but not in the last two, which are not.

Altogether, the experts said, Africa should produce between 9 and 11 per cent of world supplies over the next two decades.

The continent will probably play a growing role in the natural gas market, as well, with the exploitation of the huge Algerian and Nigerian reserves and the bringing into production of newly discovered fields in the Gulf of Guinea.

NEW ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY APPOINTED

AB071231 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] The Angolan head of state, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, has appointed former state secretary for cooperation, Comrade [Adolfo Nsikalangu], the new secretary for economic affairs. This was announced in a presidential dispatch issued in Luanda yesterday. Comrade [Nsikalangu] will be replaced by Comrade [Nascimento (Takotesan) Oliveira (Kumonasima Dadrate]. The dispatch also discloses the removal of Comrade [Guaina Madelena da Costa Carmelo] from the post of secretary of state for judicial affairs, dismissed [words indistinct] of the government.